



Summer 1999

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Dordt College

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the VOICE

DORDT COLLEGE

SUMMER 1999
VOLUME 44 NUMBER 4

“
Students tried
to understand the
significance of
faith and prayer
in the context
of contemporary
quantum theory
and chaos theory.
”



Drs. Arnold Sikkema and Mark Tazelaar enjoyed collaborating on their award-winning science course called “Science, Providence, and Prayer: Perspectives in Physical Science.”

Science course awarded \$10,000

Sally Jongsma

Dr. Mark Tazelaar stands next to Dr. Arnold Sikkema in the faculty processional line-up at formal academic occasions. He remembers clearly waiting in the lobby before graduation last spring, doing some of the initial brainstorming for a philosophy of physical science perspectives course he and Sikkema hoped to teach in the fall. He also remembers the chuckles of those around them.

That course, later named “Science, Providence, and Prayer: Perspectives in Physical Science” for the Templeton application, was taught last fall. This spring it was awarded a \$10,000 Templeton Foundation Science and Religion Course Program award.

Although Dordt has long been committed to recognizing and working out the implications of the integrality of faith and science, a foundational course dealing with Christian perspectives in science has not been offered for several years. The seed for the new course was sown last year during discussions in the faculty orientation seminars of which Sikkema and Tazelaar, both first-year professors at Dordt, were part. In these seminars, recently hired faculty discuss together the implications of their faith for their teaching and subject area. Sikkema, a theoretical physicist, expressed interest in exploring issues in the philosophy of science. Tazelaar, a philosopher, had written a dissertation in the philosophy of science. By

the time they were discussing the course at Dordt’s graduation, Sikkema had also been accepted as a participant in a five-week PEW-sponsored faculty summer seminar at Calvin College to study with Dr. John Polkinghorne, a Christian physicist, on the relation of faith and science. He was eager to use what he would learn.

The physical science perspectives course helped students understand the implications of scientific developments on the nature and role of providence and prayer. It was not simply a historical survey, but an issue-oriented exploration of topics set in the context of their historical development. Students tried to understand the significance of faith and prayer in the context of contemporary quantum theory and chaos theory.

Exploring the relation of faith and science is a topic of increasing interest to a broad range of scholars, say the professors. The Templeton Foundation grants up to 100 \$10,000 awards per year to institutions and professors who teach interdisciplinary courses in science and religion. These courses must be solidly academic, using recognized resources in the subject area and dealing with the most current developments in the field. They must also examine the philosophical and historical context. According to the Templeton selection criteria these courses must be balanced, give room for open-minded exploration of ideas, and include discussion of diverse viewpoints.

Sikkema and Tazelaar didn’t even think about applying for the Templeton award until they were more than a month into the course. They proposed the course simply because it sounded worthwhile and exciting for both them and their students. They began their planning by establishing what each of them could contribute.

“We brought a bunch of books into the room and began to explore how to bring coherence to what we could each contribute,” says Tazelaar. In the end they agreed to focus the course around a video-taped public lecture of Polkinghorne titled “Can a Scientist Pray?”

“Usually science is seen as so mechanical that there is no room for divine intervention,” says Sikkema. Polkinghorne proposes another way of viewing science that allows for both providence and prayer, moving away from the mechanistic view held by many scientists. Polkinghorne’s ideas and video also led Tazelaar and Sikkema to a more catchy title than the original “Perspectives in Physical Science,” a title that would demonstrate a familiarity with current issues and experts in the field.

The course offered last fall followed a seminar format, organized around common readings: two foundational articles on science and religion written by Reformed scholars, three current books on the topic, and finally the Polkinghorne video and his book *Belief in God in an Age of Science*. Students

continued on page two



inside

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A West Hall
retrospective before
its renovation

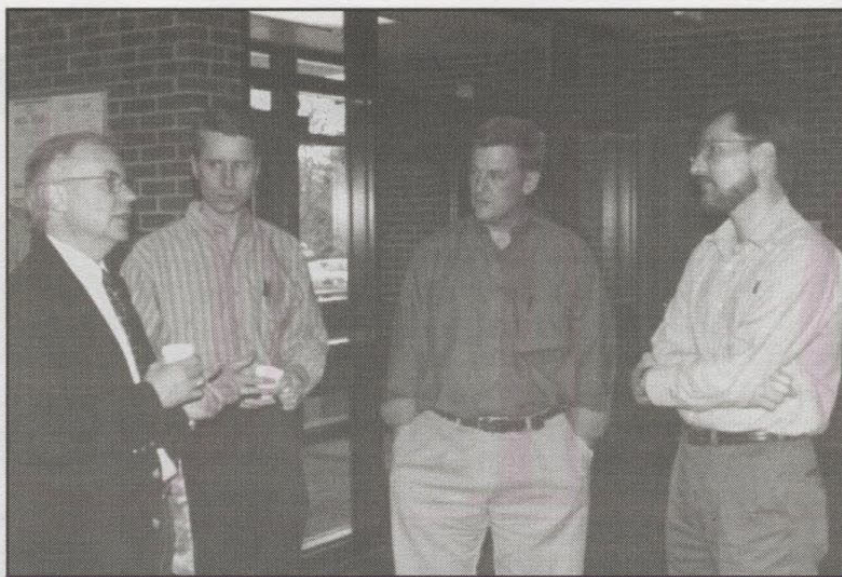
10

Dordt 2000
passes goal

12

Track team has
banner year

“
Students need to
be able to articulate
what they think about
these issues and
not just repeat what
they've been told.”



A reception for Sikkema and Tazelaar was held on campus in recognition of their Templeton award.

Continued from page one
were exposed to and forced to critically reflect on the views and contributions of scientists from a variety of religious traditions. Some of the main goals of the course were to help them understand contemporary perspectives on physical science, see the complexity of the issues, and begin to develop a Christian perspective.

To do this, Sikkema and Tazelaar had students individually grapple with the material. Prior to each class, students had to submit discussion questions for the group based on a careful reading of the assigned books and articles. These discussions, steered and moderated by a physicist and a philosopher, presented a rich learning environment for students.

“Students benefitted from seeing faculty discuss and while not agreeing on every point doing so in a positive, committed way,” says

told, Sikkema believes. He thinks the course helped them begin to do that.

In the future, the new course may be required for a variety of majors in the sciences and encouraged for those in history and philosophy. And the professors will make a few changes in the course next time around, they say, two of which will be to replace some of the discussion time with more lectures and to use resources currently becoming available.

But regardless of how they hope to improve the course, students this year were overwhelmingly appreciative. One wrote in an evaluation,

Two major benefits of a discussion-based class were that we had to critically examine and apply concepts and theories, and I was challenged to think deeply about my faith and how it affects my life.

Tazelaar. Students seemed almost surprised at such back and forth but both professors are convinced that it helped the students give shape to their own thinking.

Students need to be able to articulate what they think about these issues and not just repeat what they've been

Another wrote:

Many people in many majors should be encouraged to take this course because the issues discussed are ones everyone needs to think about. This course challenged my ideas about science and philosophy, especially in that it showed that there are no easy answers to how God relates to the physical world.

Students also were very appreciative of the professors, commending them for their enthusiasm, their expertise, and the way they were able to help students discover things through discussion.

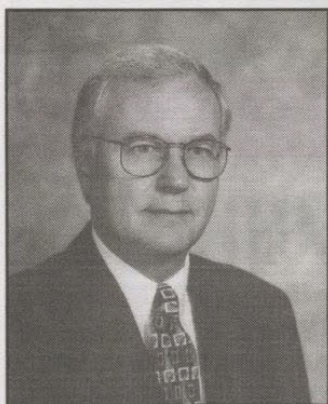
Said one student,

“I am unspeakably glad to have been involved in this course.... It was the class I looked forward to the most.... I heard a lot of ideas this semester that I never thought about before.”

For both Sikkema and Tazelaar such reactions are encouraging and make such a course, which takes a great deal of time to plan and teach, all worthwhile.

The \$10,000 awarded by Templeton gets divided evenly between the college and the professors. The college will receive its share this summer after the professors attend a course workshop on science and religion put on by Templeton. The professors will receive their portion after they teach the course again, which is scheduled for the fall of 2000. Sikkema and Tazelaar plan to recommend ways the money can be used to further students' understanding of issues related to faith and science.

From the president



Dr. Carl E. Zylstra

“
I've found that being
open about our emphases
actually helps us get
along better both with
other Christian and
other non-Christian
educational institutions
with whom we work in
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cause of higher education.”

On being Reformed

When people are told that Dordt College offers education from a Reformed biblical perspective, they often ask what the word “Reformed” means and what it has to do with education. Personally, I consider that sort of question to be an advantage, because the questioner will be more likely to recognize that Dordt College is distinct from at least some other colleges and universities. They'll also have a word to use in remembering those distinctives.

It's not that our college is inhospitable to students from other Christian backgrounds and traditions. But there's not much reason to act as if all Christians understand the Scriptures and life in the same way. Parents of potential students generally are aware of the differences among Christian traditions, and they want to know where Dordt College stands in that variety of traditions. Prospective students, too, know that all Christians don't think the same way. They want to know how Dordt College thinks and whether they will feel comfortable with us for the next two to four years.

That's why we don't mind pointing out that one distinctive of the Reformed understanding of Scripture has been an emphasis on the sovereignty of God. As the mother of a new student recently asked me, “Just what do you Reformed people believe anyway? All I know about Calvinists is that they emphasize predestination.” When I replied that, just as Reformed doctrines of sovereign grace underscore God's absolute sovereignty over our

salvation, so Dordt's educational enterprise recognizes the absolute sovereignty of God over his creation and its redemption, this mother (although from a non-Reformed church) exclaimed, “Good. That's what our family believes too.”

Nor do we want to downplay the traditional Reformed stress on the covenantal understanding of Scripture as it describes God's dealings with his people in community with him as their sovereign Lord. Repeatedly parents and new students question why we don't require chapel attendance at Dordt College. It's almost surprising how much positive reaction we receive when it's explained that because Dordt College is a Reformed college, we believe Christ-centered education is community-building education that takes place all day, every day, not just during the two hours a week in chapel or only during the fifteen hours a week spent in class.

Nor do many Christians really want us to play down the Reformed emphasis on the total authority of all of Scripture (Old and New Testament alike) for governing every area of faith and life. We're forthright about the fact that Dordt College professors are required to sign an agreement that they will govern their teaching by the Bible as understood in the Reformed confessions. Because we offer a Reformed type of education, we can be honest that classroom instruction at Dordt College needs to be governed by the Word of the Lord whose world we are studying and whose kingdom we are serving.

I'm well aware that such a use of the term “Reformed” could make us sound smug and conceited. It's easy to come off as arrogantly presuming to have a corner on the truth. But my own experience in higher education over the last few years has indicated that the opposite effect results from an honest admission of our college's Reformed tradition.

That's because, in the first place, our use of the Reformed description for our college helps identify our solidarity with other colleges and universities who share the same perspective. Not that we're trying to cut others out of our Reformed circle of collegiality, but it's good for everyone to be aware which other institutions share the same specific goals and aspirations.

Besides, I've found that being open about our emphases actually helps us get along better both with other Christian and other non-Christian educational institutions with whom we work in advancing the general cause of higher education. Put simply, as long as we're humble and gentle in our affirmations, individuals, groups and institutions generally find that we work together better when we understand and appreciate our differences as well.

It's true that we always have to be careful with labels—maybe especially with the ones we put on ourselves. Yet the term “Reformed” still seems to serve well as a significant descriptor of what Dordt College strives to be—helping others understand what we are and assisting us in remembering who we are.

Vander Stelt ends thirty-one years at Dordt

Sally Jongsma

Marking papers is harvest time," says Dr. John C. Vander Stelt as he sits at his desk surrounded by stacks of his students' end-of-the-semester efforts.

"It's probably the most tiring part of my job, but also the most exciting," he adds. Term papers show like little else what students have learned and how it has shaped their thinking.

"I want students to write for themselves, not me," Vander Stelt continues, "to deepen their insight, to open their hearts and minds so that they can take firm hold of a Christian worldview."

Vander Stelt speaks from experience. This spring he completes thirty-one years of teaching at Dordt College. He has taught and influenced thousands of students over the decades in his philosophy and theology courses. But those students have shaped and molded him too. He is fond of repeating a comment made to him by a former pastor: "Students make the teacher."

"Their questions make me keep thinking as I walk to campus, as I lie in bed at night, as I drive my car," he says. Students never allowed him to stagnate or rest on his laurels, but always challenged him to think and rethink issues and understand anew how simple and yet how complex living and thinking as a Christian really is.

"Students are gracious," he says. "If you don't know the best answer to a question they'll respect you if you think about it and come back to the next class with a better thought-out one." He believes that this approach also ultimately leads students to wrestle with and reflect on issues more deeply themselves.

It is this interaction with students that he will miss most.

"Students can open up like flowers in spring," he says. "You can see it in their eyes and their bodies when ideas begin to make sense—as they agree or disagree, as they reach for the truth." It's liberating for the students and invigorating for him, he says.

That's not to say that every student is a model. The Lord always gives one or two to keep you humble, he says. But he's learned to focus on those who are interested in learning what he has to teach.

"At first I got upset about those who didn't seem to care. But I soon learned to give myself to those who did and serve them as best I could," he says.

The students he thinks about today are those who are joyfully and humbly committed to the Lord and his kingdom, who know their own strengths and weaknesses, who are committed to faithfulness over success.

Over the years he has passionately tried to teach students from a reformational Christian worldview, shaping their minds through the more than a dozen courses he teaches.

His most challenging and rewarding assignment over the years was to design and implement what is now known as GEN 300. Its name, "Calling, Task, and Culture," summarizes what a Dordt education is all about, he adds.

"The heart of the reformation is always the reformation of the heart," he says. No matter what students know in their heads, they're called to be humble and live a life filled with gratitude—just like professors and everyone. His fervent hope and prayer is that his students will do just that throughout their lives.

Vander Stelt is appreciative of more than the students he has taught while at Dordt. He is thankful for the institution and the



Dr. John Vander Stelt and his wife, Sandy, were honored in April at a dinner with the board of trustees and faculty.

opportunities it gave him to work with committed colleagues both on campus and off. When President B.J. Haan asked him in the mid-70s to represent Dordt College in a new organization to promote Christian higher education throughout the world, he did not know what a change it would make in his life.

"My work with the International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education (IAPCHE) has helped me to relativize Western civilization and radicalize my understanding of the God's kingdom," he says. He believes his faith has become more dynamic as a result of working closely with Christians from many different cultures and countries who themselves demonstrate such a dynamic faith, often in the midst of hardship.

He recalls with pain and gratitude the controversy that enveloped the college in the early seventies. But looking back he is thankful that Dordt came out of that struggle stronger, affirming what he still sees as a unique role among institutions of higher education. And he feels privileged to have served for many years on Dordt's Purposes Committee, helping formulate and shape what Dordt is today.

Thirty years is a long time and many things have changed since Vander Stelt arrived in 1968. The campus now has 1400 instead of 600 students, and the dress code and what Vander Stelt calls "blue laws" that distracted both students and professors are gone. Students seem more willing to raise questions today about who Christ is and what is the nature of his kingdom, Vander Stelt says. They're also more open to the danger of civil religion and cognizant of the need for a full-orbed life of Christian service.

Vander Stelt feels that students today are more independent and less docile than in the early years, pursuing and advocating what they believe more aggressively. And women are taking on much more leadership. But he also believes students are less protected and more vulnerable.

He says that they are exposed to so many more ideas today. Their faith is challenged in ways unheard of twenty-five years ago. Students must cope with cultural changes, divorce, and the effects of post modernism in their lives.

"As a result some become more rigid and

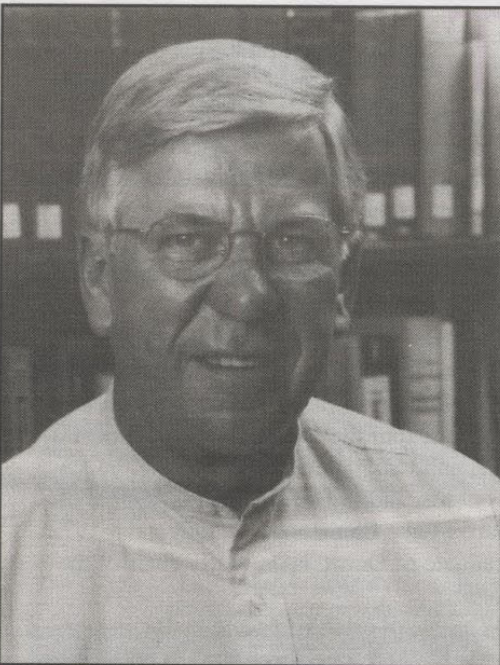
closed-minded. Others become too fluid, too flexible, and lose a place to stand," he believes. Yet, despite these challenges, each year and each day students are touched and moved to commit their lives to serving Christ and his kingdom. That excites him.

Even though he left the classroom in May, Vander Stelt will continue the work to which he has devoted his professional career. Retirement from teaching will give him the time to research and write the book he's been planning for years, a study of faith and theology in a global setting. As president of IAPCHE he also plans to stay deeply involved in its work for at least the next couple of years. He also hopes to preach more regularly.

"I have lots of material and insight I've gained through my teaching that can be put into sermons," he says, adding that doing so takes more time than preparing a lecture.

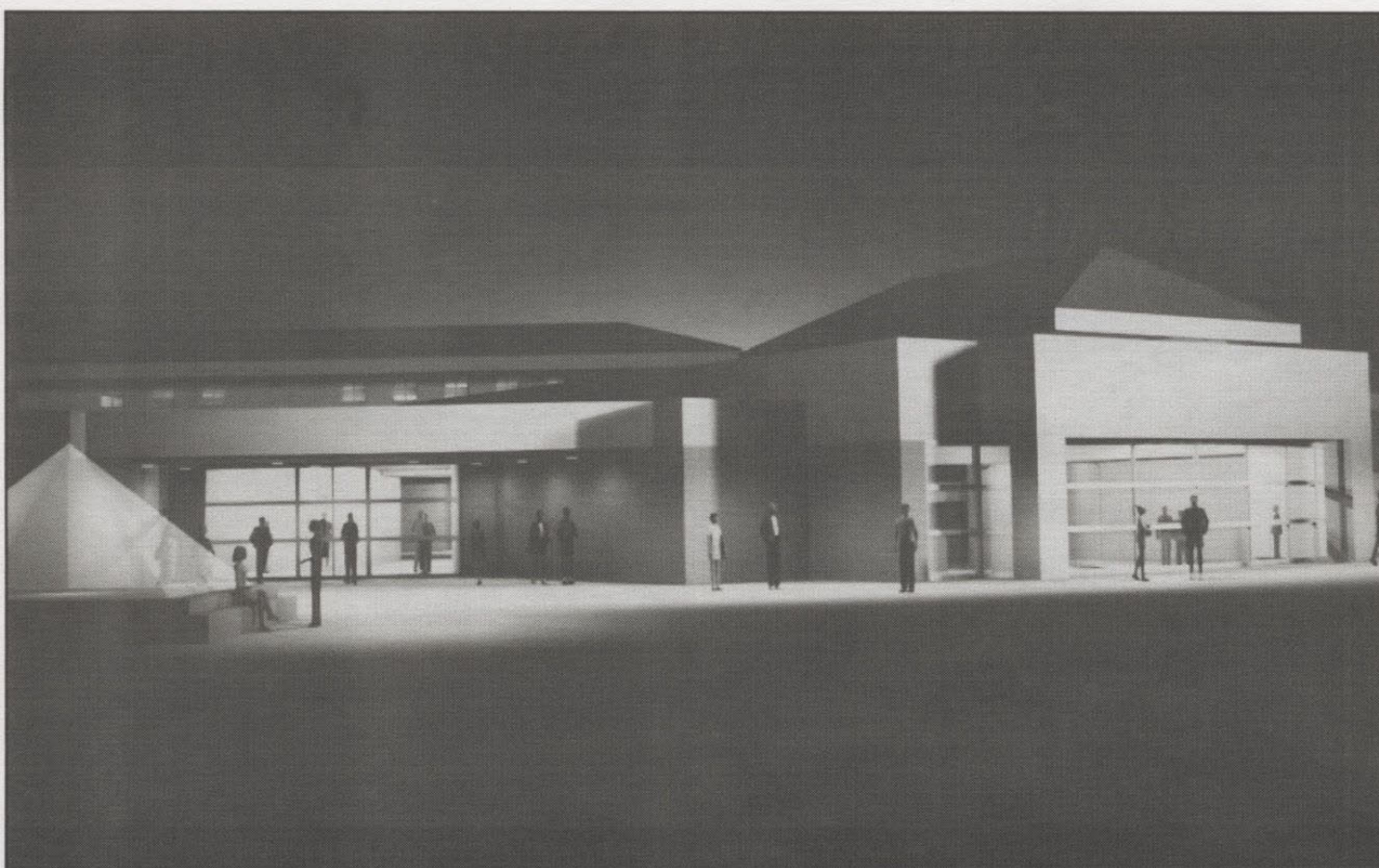
And he'll take more time for family, both children and grandchildren. Two of his children have already planned a week away while Mom and Dad watch the kids, he says with a chuckle.

"I'm immensely grateful for my time here and for the way God has used me on and off campus—often in ways I wouldn't have anticipated," he concludes. "I'm humbled by it."



Dr. John Vander Stelt plans to keep writing and preaching after he retires from teaching.

“
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of the reformation
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Dordt students take over Middle East

Once again, Dordt students represented the college well in the annual Model Arab League conference. With four delegations this year representing Libya, Algeria, Jordan, and Sudan, team members studied their assigned countries in an attempt to identify the major concerns and mindsets of Middle Eastern politicians.

Model Arab League, an event that takes place in regions all across the country, is similar to Model United Nations except that student representatives pose as delegates for various Middle Eastern nations. The students advocate their country's position and push for an acceptable resolution. These resolutions are then passed on to the actual Arab League.

Matt Nelson headed the three-member secretariat as the general secretary with Livija Shannon as assistant secretary. Shannon will return next year as the General Secretary with Adam Zylstra assisting. This year's awards were as follows:

Best Delegate

Economic Affairs Joel Vos (Algeria)
Jill Vossen (Libya)
Palestinian Affairs ... Cedric Franken (Jordan)
Political Affairs Adam Zylstra (Jordan)
Danielle Kamps (Libya)
Security Affairs Dan Vos (Libya)
Social Affairs Dalida Meyer (Algeria)
Eunice Muthengi (Libya)

Best Chairperson

Social Affairs Heather Moerman (Jordan)

Best Delegation Jordan

Heather Moerman (Head Delegate)

Zaur Gassanov

Cedric Franken

Adam Zylstra

Leonard Gooz

Libya

Dan Vos (Head Delegate)

Danielle Kamps

Eunice Muthengi

Lisa Ochsner

Jill Vossen

Board approves new student life center

At its April board meeting the Dordt College board of trustees authorized the college to proceed with planning for a new student life center. The new facility will connect the current Student Union Building with the library and house the Student Services Office and the Admissions Office. It will include a coffee house, a game room, an enlarged bookstore and lounge area, as well as a large open performance area for such things as student praise gatherings, comedy league, small concerts, and readings. An information kiosk, providing campus visitors with information they need to find their way around campus, will be in the lobby. Plans are also being made to set up a bank of computers for students to check email, keeping the computer labs more available for student work. An arboretum will be developed in the area behind the student life center and the science building.

"The idea is to better integrate student services with the academic side of the institution," says Bernard De Wit, vice president for

business affairs.

He and Curtis Taylor, vice president for student affairs, point out that specific plans have not yet been finalized, but one of the goals is to provide better gathering places for students to work and study together. Over the years the library has become a social area as well as a study area. With the new building attached to the library providing more places for group study, Taylor hopes the library will return to a quiet study area and the student life center be a center of activity.

He looks forward to having all student service personnel in one office area but is especially eager to have all of their offices accessible. Currently some students with disabilities cannot get down to most of the student services offices.

If fundraising goes well, construction of the new student life center could begin as early as the summer of 2000 and be completed by September 2001. De Wit sees it as one more step in continuing to implement the Campus Plan 2000 adopted several years ago.

Iowa Board of Examiners meets at Dordt

The Iowa Board of Educational Examiners met on the campus of Dordt College on April 9. The board holds monthly public meetings, usually at the Department of Education Offices in Des Moines, but periodically travels to locations throughout the state, often meeting on the campuses of colleges such as Dordt, whose teacher education programs are approved by the the Iowa DOE.

The Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE) is comprised of 11 members appointed by the governor. Five members must be teachers, four members must be administrators, and two members must be non-educators. Ms. Judith Brueggeman, principal of Harris-Lake Elementary School and a 1972 graduate of Dordt, is currently chair of the board.

The board establishes and maintain standards for 1) teacher licensure, 2) relicensure, and 3) professional practices (ethics).

Campus capsules

Alumni scholarships awarded

Each spring, the Alumni Association Board meets, and each spring, one of their tasks is to interview current juniors who applied to receive an Alumni Scholarship. The board seeks students with a GPA of 3.25 or higher who will be good representatives of Dordt alumni when they graduate. The recipients chosen this year are Shawna Prins, who will receive a \$1,000 scholarship, and Brian Koning and Janel Kragt, who will each receive \$500.

New computer science scholarships available

A new Dordt scholarship made its debut this spring, this time for computer science majors. The Hollander Consulting, Inc., Information Technologies Scholarship Agreement set up by alums Paul and Vonda Kooima ('87) is awarded to current sophomore and junior computer science majors with a 2.8 or higher GPA. The scholarships are \$1,000 each and were awarded this year to sophomore Patrick Bakker from Winnipeg,

Manitoba, and junior Liam Starkenberg from Palmyra, New York.

Students stage benefit concert

Saturday, May 1 found the New World Theatre filled with students eager to support a fellow Dordt student and friend at Fire & Ice II: the Grateful James Benefit concert.

Freshman James Klaver was diagnosed in early April with acute myelogenous leukemia (AML). James' roommate, Josh De Groot, thought it might be a good idea to hold a benefit concert near the end of the school year to raise money for his friend's treatment, so he went to the organizers of last year's Fire & Ice benefit for help. "The cause presented itself," said concert organizer Rob Reitsma, "so we went with it."

Within the space of approximately one month, Reitsma and a small staff of students put together a five-band show, sold nearly a hundred t-shirts, and gathered sponsors. "We were really grateful for the positive response from students and faculty," said Reitsma. "They all helped make the show a successful benefit."

Program wins

This year's Dordt College basketball program was voted the second best program in the nation by the NAIA Sports Information Director's Association. The program was designed by Corey Westra and Barb Grevengoed, with the help of Fred Haan and Sherm Wissink. The program was submitted to a panel of judges decided on by the NAIA.

on my first time in Canada

(or "stucco, stucco everywhere
stucco, stucco is not rare.")

we drive
down Larchwood
street where
the houses
seem to spit the stucco
off and
out like
chipped bits of
teeth,
where
the breakouts of the
outsides
fall frostbitten
into the
evergreens,
where there
is no American longing
to smooth grooves and
mask imperfections
with siding

Kirstin Vander Giessen

Three Killed In a Car Crash,

(or After I heard about the Accident)

in the tops of the trees (the cars
speed down main street)
the birds will sleep tonight

the leaves shiver, now
wrinkled and withered,
in the shushing shooshes of
midnight sighs, as memories fly

my cigarette whispers to
the misty night, and the birds I
heard have drifted
into the sky

like a silent last breath, sent
from life into death, but the birds
will return, and these trees shall
see leaves again

Ryan Vande Kraats

Van Gilst retires as CEJ editor

After fifteen years of soliciting articles, working with writers and layout editors, enforcing deadlines, and selecting columnists and designers, Dr. Lorna Van Gilst is retiring from her position as editor of *Christian Educators Journal (CEJ)*.

The quarterly magazine, which was founded in Grand Rapids, Michigan, thirty-eight years ago by the Christian Educators Association, is dedicated to issues that face teachers and administrators in Christian schools. Originally involved as a columnist, Van Gilst says she really really didn't expect to edit a magazine.

"My first response was, 'I can't do this. I don't know how.'" But she learned quickly. Van Gilst immediately reorganized the magazine by creating theme issues and regular columns. In addition, she committed to increasing the audience, both globally and demographically. The ongoing project of expanding readership has developed considerably under Van Gilst's direction with subscriptions now going to Korea and Australia and national readership branching outside of Christian Schools International teachers.

What Van Gilst loved most about editing *CEJ* and what she will miss most is "the opportunity to interact with so many Christian school educators." She enjoyed working with the writers to shape articles, and she appreciated receiving meaningful responses from readers who connected with a particular article or theme.

However, recent problems with her retinas have made it difficult for her to meet the pressure of editing deadlines. Seeing this as a chance to pursue a different calling, she perhaps will be seeking new opportunities for serving. After teaching in Venezuela on a Fulbright Fellowship last year, Van Gilst began to consider other possibilities, possibly teaching English with short-term overseas programs.

In June, Van Gilst will officially hand over the editorship and *CEJ* archives to Bert Witvoet from St. Catharines, Ontario, who until recently edited the *Christian Courier*.



Dr. Lorna Van Gilst has taught at Dordt College for fifteen years.

Purple Martin Awards given

When the little masses of violet iridescence bespeckle the campus, it's also time for Purple Martin. Over a decade old, the Purple Martin Writing Contest still draws a large response, this year receiving nearly twice as many entries as it did last spring.

"We've had years when we didn't even offer a prize in some categories," said Dr. Mike Vanden Bosch, "but we didn't have that problem this year."

Following is a list of those who received awards.

Open Categories

Academic Essay

First PlaceKirstin Vander Giessen
Second PlaceDanielle Kamps
Honorable MentionMatthew McNatt
Danielle Kamps, Cara Miedema

Narrative Essay

First PlaceCara Miedema
Second PlaceSarah Eekhoff
Honorable MentionHeidi Netz

Poetry

First PlaceKirstin Vander Giessen
Second PlaceRyan Vande Kraats
Honorable MentionNiki Vander Vliet

Melissa Phaneuf, Grant Elgersma
Ben Groenewold

Fiction

First PlaceJanelle Kragt
Second PlaceMatthew McNatt

Freshman Categories

Critical Review/Essay

First PlaceRebecca Schelhaas
Honorable MentionSarah Den Boer,
Kelly Crull

Response Essay

First PlaceAllison Rozendaal
Honorable MentionEmily Vander Hart
Sarah Den Boer, Allison De Jong

Persuasive Essay

First PlaceAllison De Jong
Honorable MentionRebecca Schelhaas
Sarah Den Boer, Mitch Beaumont

Narrative Essay

First PlaceLeanne Prins
Honorable MentionMiranda Scholten
Rebecca Schelhaas, Josh De Groot

Theater tour goes the service learning route

On May 8, thirteen students and director Simon du Toit left Sioux Center on a two-week, four-stop tour of the Midwest. This year's repertory theater class took a service learning approach to their tour, with Shakespeare workshops for high school students and a production of *Romeo and Juliet* that incorporated high school student actors with the Dordt cast. The workshops addressed such topics as Elizabethan dance and music, swordfighting, Shakespearean text, and the world of the Globe Theatre, all of which were incorporated into the show.

Prior to the tour, du Toit was looking forward to the risks involved with the task of immersing students in a Shakespearean text in such a short amount of time. "There's nothing more difficult for students than to approach a text that's opaque," says du Toit. Part of his goal for each school was to help the students take an energetic approach to Shakespeare's work, despite its age and consequently obscure language. A broader

goal for du Toit was to help the students understand how disciplined, focused acting can create energy on stage. "I hope they will get a sense of what the living theater can be," says du Toit.

Senior engineer helps "automate Kelly"

Adding to the usual frenzy that accompanies senior engineers' end-of-the-year presentation of their senior design projects, Jenny Taylor entered an oral presentation contest on April 16 with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). Along with Amy Hillemonds, David Morrison, and Kyle Zylstra, Taylor completed a design project titled "Automating Kelly: The Design of a Glass Handling Device." The group worked in collaboration with Pella Window Corp. to create a plan for a machine that uses suction cups to tip a sheet of fresh glass onto an air table at the beginning of an assembly line. Although she didn't place, Taylor says she had a great time attending the conference.

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International teachers.

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DORDT COLLEGE

FACULTY POSITIONS

Dordt College is seeking Christian academicians for openings beginning August 2000:

Biology

Economics

Mathematics (one-year)

A part-time, fall semester faculty position in the Mathematics Department, teaching elementary math is also available beginning August 1999.

To learn more about these positions and receive application materials, qualified persons committed to a Reformed, biblical perspective and educational philosophy are encouraged to send a letter of interest that provides evidence of that commitment and a curriculum vitae to Dr. Rockne McCarthy, Dordt College, 498 4th Ave NE, Sioux Center, IA 51250-1697; facsimile: 712-722-4496; e-mail: vpaa@dordt.edu; Web site: www.dordt.edu/offices/acadaff/

Dordt College is an equal opportunity institution that strongly encourages the nominations and candidacies of women, minorities, and disabled persons.

DORDT COLLEGE

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The Spirit of West Hall

This article is made up of a series of excerpts taken from a paper senior Cara Miedema wrote for a course this semester.

It captures memories that are timely, since construction crews are beginning to renovate West Hall as this issue goes to press.

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If Dordt students ever form a loyalty to a particular building, it is to West Hall.

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"The mid-60s were generally characterized by strict Christian piety. It was insisted, for example, that the slots in the lobby pop machines be covered on Sundays. The lounge television was off-limits on Sundays as well, and football fans either found a venue off-campus or smuggled the lounge television from its locked hiding place to their own room with the help of a dorm counselor key. Karen Bosma even recalls getting into trouble for having her own ironing board, although she can't remember why. Students who wanted to use their electric popcorn poppers and coffee pots had to do so behind closed doors to prevent the smell from wafting to dorm counselors' noses."

West Hall has never been a grand building. No dignified staircase or large pillars holding up an ornately sculpted roof. No buttresses or creatively shaped windows. Like the no-nonsense Dutch who built it, the first dormitory on Dordt's campus is a functional building, boxy and without excess. Yet it is a happy place. After exploring library archives, poring over old yearbooks and Dordt Diamond articles, and receiving more than a hundred e-mails from loyal past residents, after interviewing numerous current and past residents and spending significant time in the building, I have glimpsed what only West Hall residents can know in full: the spirit of West Hall.

Construction began on "the dorm," as West Hall was first called, in the fall of 1962. Up until that point, students had been living in homes around Sioux Center.

A week before classes were scheduled to begin the next fall, the dorm was far from complete, and school officials met with the contractors to discuss whether they should allow the students to come. They decided to begin classes on time.

The dorm looked livable from the outside, but upon entering the building, students were crestfallen. They were shocked to discover carpenters' dust, dirt, and leftover materials littering the hallways and their rooms. First floor rooms were almost completed, but the suites on second floor still required lights and bathroom details. Reports conflict on the bed situation those first few nights. Some students remember groping their way into dark rooms on

second floor, stumbling to find a bed that wasn't occupied; others roomed with friends on first floor or off-campus. Some can clearly recall bunking down in the terrazzo-floored hallways, while others are sure that dragging their bunks into the hallway was a regular morning chore so as to make room for overworked construction crews.

"On my first night away from home, I remember sitting on a mattress in the hallway, feeling very homesick," alumna Karen Rynders says. Mavis Zondervan, another first-year resident, writes, "I think we lost a few during this time. 'Homelessness' was a difficult way to begin college life."

Dirt, chaos, and furry creatures did not make for an ideal beginning for residents of Dordt's first dormitory. But students survived and even grew from the experience. On the day that students moved in, a mother and daughter from Denver walked in the south end. Upon seeing the beds stacked in the hallway, the mother exclaimed, "Judy, you'll have the time of your life. Nobody ever did this before!" Despite unpleasant beginnings and

initial complaints, students were glad to be in the new facility. Terry Vande Berg looks back: "The situation was not all bad."

After the initial chaos had subsided, students settled down to life in the dormitory. What for students today seems to be a very small room with outdated decor and few niceties was new, modern, and convenient to most students in 1963. Being on campus was like big-city living, more glamorous than any of the off-campus housing. Rynders, who came from rural Edgerton, Minnesota, was even "elated to have showers and an indoor potty." The rooms were not spacious, but students were accustomed to sharing rooms with their siblings. In any case, students had few belongings with which to fill their rooms; they often came two or three people to a car with nothing more than a suitcase of clothes each, plus maybe an alarm clock and radio. Most of the 160 students in the building belonged to Dutch, lower-to-middle class families not known for their opulence.

From its beginning, the dormitory housed both boys and girls, as they were called back then. But a co-ed dorm did not equal co-ed living; despite living under the same flat roof, boys and girls were strictly segregated. Soon after school started in 1963, construction crew members hastily constructed a plasterboard barrier between the male north wing and female south wing on each floor. This was to prove very inadequate. Terry Vande Berg tells the story: "Not too long after this plasterboard affair was put up, someone pushed a pencil through the plaster board on the second floor to enable people to peek through, as talking already was very easy, since the construction was far from sound proof. After the pencil hole, a larger object was pushed through, making the peep hole bigger to allow for better viewing. We now had a hole of about an inch, but this lasted only for a few days until someone decided to force a broom handle through and gain someone's attention as he or she walked by."

Despite not being allowed in each other's rooms, the boys and girls of West Hall found other ways to meet each other. Before telephones were installed in each room in the late 1970s, students relied on an intercom system to communicate between rooms. They would send a message from their room over the intercom down to the lobby desk, where a monitor could forward the message to another student's room. When this method failed, human messengers worked well: "Mary Jane, would you run up to your room and ask Susan to come down to the lounge? John wants to talk to her!"

Romantically inclined students spent time in the "Passion Pit." Students on a date would return a short time before curfew and say their good-byes in the south lobby. Janice (Van Sant) Bouma remembers, "Hey, the best part of having to be in on time was the cherished minutes in the entry way where all the couples huddled until the lights came on. It was steamy!"

And then there were the illegal trysts. Sometimes a rendezvous occurred on the lounge roof: students had discovered they could travel back and forth over the lounge between room 222 on the female side and room 210 on the male side. Dordt Romeos and Juliets trafficked through those rooms

frequently, particularly in the spring. Other brave young men in search of female companionship dirtied knees, hands, and faces by crawling from north side to south basement through the heat pipe tunnels under the dorm.

Dordt staff did not plan official social programs for students, so most residents planned their own fun. Ping-pong in the dorm basement was a popular pastime. Students would pop popcorn—they were allowed to do so in a pan in the basement kitchen—and play cards or discuss philosophy, theology, faith, and life itself long into the night.

The fun in the residence hall did not end with popcorn, ping-pong, and philosophy. Many students saw dormitory regulations as silly rules that were meant to be broken. Working together to bypass those rules created a feeling of camaraderie, laced with a touch of conspiracy. Students collaborated to get each other back into the building past curfew. Verne Meyer, for example, would dangle a string out his second-floor, west-facing window and tie the string to his wrist. Anyone who was late would pull on the string, and Meyer would creep downstairs and open the door. Students also organized a lookout during their soccer or hockey games in the corridors. Vande Berg remembers, "We had a relay system—'he's coming, he's coming!'—so everything was put away and people would be standing inside their door. 'He's gone, he's gone!'—and everybody would jump out and play."

Dordt student enrollment was at 346 in 1963, but it continued to grow, so the board of trustees approved the construction of a second dormitory northeast of the original dormitory. Creatively named "North Hall," this building was for females, so the first dorm—now officially "West Hall"—became exclusively male. A third dormitory, named "East Hall" and also for women, would be ready for residence in 1970; West Hall remained saturated with young men until the fall of 1974.

In 1974, carpet was first installed in the suites. This fresh, updated look was extended gradually to the dorm regulations. Televisions were not allowed into students' rooms until 1979. And Corinna Possemis-Meijers calls the male-female visitation policy in the late 70s "draconian at best." But as years passed, visitation hours lengthened, and the current open hours policy was adopted in 1986: 4-11 p.m., Sunday through Thursday; 4 p.m.-midnight, Friday and Saturday. These changes reduced traffic in and out of—and over—the lounge. By the end of the 70s, the lounge became cozy and warm only at the end of semesters, when students would consume No Doz, pop, tea, coffee, and toast in order to pull an "all-nighter," studying in the lounge from night until morning. Students rarely used the lounge roof for trysts, although it was increasingly a place for solitude, suntanning, picnicking, even sleeping.

Despite the reduced activity in the lounge, men and women took advantage of the co-ed nature of the building. Dating couples no longer needed the "Passion Pit" but could spend time in their own rooms—with the door open at least two inches, the light on, and two-feet—each planted on the floor. Both sexes crept around after open hours to

watch movies in each other's rooms. With or without permission, they would also meet for late-night studying or conversation in the stairwells. Doing laundry in a co-ed building was destined to make for some excitement. Sue Droog, a sophomore resident from 1988, comments, "Every time you went downstairs to do laundry, you met new people or a guy who really didn't have a clue what he was doing—or said he didn't so you could help him out." Brent Smeenck, resident from 1995-96, confirms Droog's statement. "With the girls upstairs, I felt connected to romantic social possibilities. Bumping into girls in their jammies in the computer room or the laundry room or the TV room was typical. You got to know people after a while."

Dozens of e-mail anecdotes detail how year after year men and women in West Hall assaulted each other's rooms with paper confetti, macaroni and various legumes, cologne, feathers, popcorn, bags of leaves, even small animals. Underwear has been another favorite target for pranksters, from stretching panties over dresser drawers to attaching iron-on stickers on men's briefs. Noreen Kenter Johnson and Shar Barendrecht Te Beest remember an underwear incident that occurred in 1985-86. "It was my first week as the new RA on 2nd North," says Te Beest, "and there had been a slumber party planned for months in advance—the whole wing was going to spend the night in the lobby. Sometime during the night, the RA keys got into the hands of a truly inspired bunch of women (I will never tell how!), who raided the guys' wing and stole as much underwear as they could get their hands on. Not content to simply parade the prizes through the cafeteria, they decided to do a little early Christmas decorating. They soaked the underwear down and threw it into the towering blue spruces outside the dorm where it froze in place. It was left up (most of it was high in the trees) until a kindly maintenance person took it all down and put it in a box for the guys to sort out and wash." Johnson remembers that, as punishment, each brief snatcher had to donate five dollars to the underwear owners.

West Hall has not been without its maintenance quirks. The heat in the rooms has been difficult to control: often frigid in the winter and unbearably stuffy in the late summer. Early in its history cold winters also caused the water pipes to freeze. Maintenance employees quickly remedied the situation by blocking off some of the ventilation outlets, thereby preventing air from moving in and out of the building. As the building has grown older, mineral deposits have developed in the pipes. Maintenance employee Brian Vander Stoep, who is responsible for all three residence halls on the west side of campus, says that some of the two-inch diameter pipe in West Hall now has an opening of less than a dime. This has resulted in poor shower pressure and an occasional overflowing toilet—to keep residents on their toes, so to speak.

Kristen Vande Berg, daughter of first-year resident Terry, lived in West Hall in 1994-95. When Terry accompanied Kristen to Dordt in the fall of 1994, he found the building "exactly the same as when we lived there," he says. "She thought it was so terribly small. I never remember it being so small." Those 10x25 foot suites were adequate in 1963, but complaints about the size of West Hall rooms surface beginning with residents from the early 70s. To make room for their increased possessions, students have been building bed lofts since the early 80s. The most common design is the four-bunk model, which has two mattresses lying end to end from the closet wall to the window wall—about two feet from the ceiling—with the remaining two mattresses

stacked under the one nearest to the closet. To get in and out of the lofts requires a form of aerobics (and has caused numerous long leg bruises and even broken bones), but a loft does make one of the "bedrooms" available for a couch, television, and mini-refrigerator, as well as one or more of the following: VCR, Nintendo, one or more computers and stereos, and a video or CD collection—with possibly enough room to move.

The dorm is not spacious; neither is it sound-proof. First-year resident Karen Rynders remembers accordion music wafting up through the shower from the room below, and Janet Schuurman enjoyed hearing the guys below her room sing in the shower during the 1975-76 school year. Sue Droog recalls that the group of guys directly below her room would bounce a basketball on the ceiling every night. "It would drive my friend Helen crazy," Droog says, "so one night she got mad and got on our loft ladder with both feet and started bouncing with it on the floor up and down. We heard some yelling and a crash and then the bouncing stopped. We think something fell off their cabinets and broke, but it worked."

If Dordt students ever form a loyalty to a particular building, it is to West Hall. These days the dorm's outside appearance has matured, but it's still very much the same building as in 1963. The rooms are cozy but very full. The corridor's terrazzo floor and walls are indeed dreary, but Sarah Vriend, a wing resident assistant, has done wonders to brighten the walls with posters, photos, encouraging sayings, and a paper border splattered with colorful hand prints and residents' names. Erica Ton and Sara Van Niejenhuis pass in the hallway and introduce themselves. "We love West Hall," they say, even though they can't explain why.

Eight computers are now arranged in the small room directly below the "Passion Pit" lobby. Connected by a door is the north-side basement, which has a separate staircase leading to it. This side features a kitchen, as well as four washers and four dryers. The small couch, two chairs, and round table are strewn haphazardly around the dusty and deserted room. This lounge is not a favorite place to hang out, unlike in the years it featured ping-pong tournaments. The ping-pong table is now in the main lounge off the north and south lobbies where on one small poster, a squat green cartoon creature says, "West Hall is gooder."

"Even though West Hall has the worst facilities on campus," admits RA Sarah, "we've come to realize that it's not the facilities but who we live with. Besides, there's something about an old building—it's lived in."

"The closer quarters make for closer relationships," adds Janelle Saarloos.

West Hall has always provided a reason for camaraderie. First-year residents were unified in their excitement about being in the "college dorm," the hub of campus life—even as they bonded through the initial confusion of an unfinished building. In the 1970s and 80s, West Hall residents discovered the unique interaction and pranks possible in a co-ed dorm, describing the atmosphere as one of a big family—"with some nice big brothers downstairs and some real brats!" adds Sue Droog. And in the 90s, students have worked against living conditions substantially less glamorous than the Hilton.

Throughout the years, the class cross-section of the building changed significantly, but the primarily sophomore presence in West Hall for the past ten years has given residents another reason to come together. Smeenck says, "What makes West Hall unique is the identity that forms for a sophomore there, free of curfew, separated from the upperclassmen [in East Campus and Southview apartments]

by a wall of freshmen [in North and East Halls]."

West Hall has become a lived-in place. It has been home for thousands of students who appreciate the added independence of having their own bathrooms coupled with community controls.

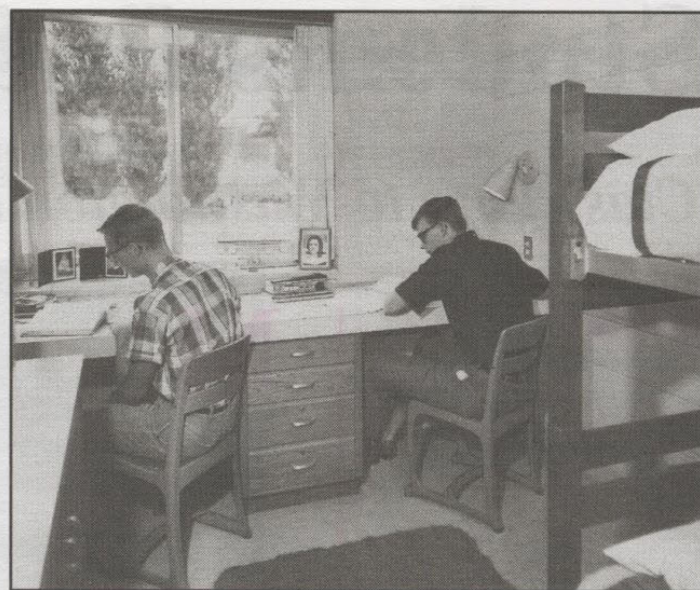
Just as water fights became an annual tradition, the residence hall's corridors have echoed—and echoed!—with similar voices and activities year after year. Until curfew was completely abolished, students have thrown stones at second floor windows, signaling to roommates "I want in!" or have climbed in and out of first floor windows. Students nap in the afternoons and stay up late at night. They play cards. They live up the halls with soccer, frisbee, hackey-sack, and floor hockey. And although the popular television programs and musical groups have changed according to cultural trends, music and entertainment remain an important part of student's lives.

In West Hall, people have grown together through roommate tensions, dealing with stressed or depressed peers, first loves or first break-ups, and family tragedies such as relatives with cancer. They have grown together through national tragedies as well. All 1963 residents remember John F. Kennedy's assassination. Don Vermeer writes, "I remember that I was in the room across the hall, visiting my friend Glenn Van Hulzen, when we heard that John Kennedy had been shot. It occurred on a Friday afternoon and the entire campus was deathly quiet for the entire weekend." Also in the 60s, young men gathered around the television to watch draft numbers being pulled, most praying that they wouldn't have to go to Vietnam. And others remember watching on the lounge television as the Challenger space shuttle exploded in January 1986.

This summer West Hall will undergo a complete interior make-over. The changes, which will retain the four-person living situation unique to West Hall, will cost \$600,000, almost double the total construction costs in 1963. From new plumbing, heating, and ventilation systems to a new fire alarm system, more electrical circuits, a cable television hookup, and a computer network connection in each room, West Hall will be set for the new century. New carpet will be installed in each room, and the bathrooms will receive new showers, toilets, vanities, and tile. Construction crews won't change the size of each room, but they plan to install a permanent loft to alleviate the hassle of putting up and taking down lofts each fall and spring. They also might replace the permanent desks and bookshelves with modular, "stackable" furniture that will open up new interior design possibilities.

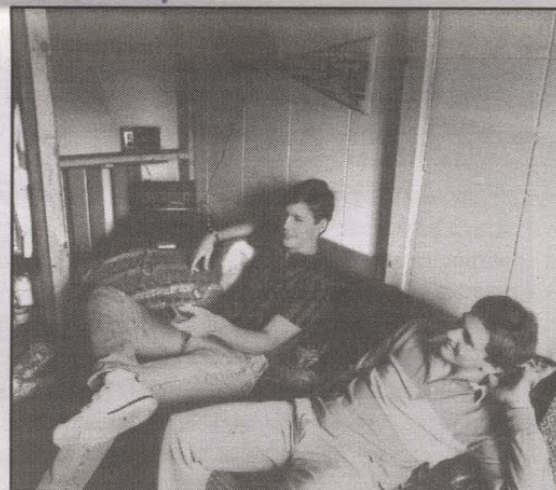
West Hall will never be a grand place. But it will be always be a lived-in place. Today its functional, cinder block walls seem to echo

*Then swell our voices with our throng
in ardent, youthful jubilee
And find with friends a Christian joy
in camaraderie.*



"Water fights got bigger and wetter every year. The building's inaugural year, when respect for its newness was at a peak, may be the only year it escaped a thorough soaking. Students would stuff towels in front of doors, then flood the terrazzo hallway with as much water as possible, sometimes to the point that it would flow down the steps. Young men—the ones who look so serious in yearbook pictures—would start body surfing down the hall."

Dave Bloemendaal quips, "Slip'n'Slide was invented by someone in West Hall. I can tell you that!"



"The most controversial change planned for this summer is the plan to carpet the hallways. Members of Student Services strongly support this change in the hopes that the carpet will reduce noise and lessen the institutional look of the hallways. Maintenance and the housekeeping ladies are opposed, concerned that the carpet will get dirty and threadbare too rapidly. After all, that terrazzo is the original flooring installed in 1963, and it's still as good as new. All it needs is a regular sweep, mop, and an occasional buff and wax. Alumni are concerned about the new carpet for another reason: 'You want to cover the 'belly-slide'?!'—not to mention the 'hockey rink' and the 'wheelchair racing lane.' No longer will students be able to slide down the hallway in their socks and pajamas on their way to get a Snickers and Mountain Dew for a late-night study break. And those West Hall water fights will never be the same."

Students find lobbying hard work

Class goes to Washington to lobby against the hard-rock mining law

Jennifer Dyke

This story is reprinted with permission from the Sheldon (Iowa) Mail-Sun. Jennifer Dyke ('95) is the managing editor.

“
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Matt Ver Steeg and John Schreurs have spent plenty of time in class discussing environmental policy, but they recently came face to face with the difficulty of getting ideas across in the actual political world.

The Dordt College students were two of thirty Christian college students who participated in the annual Rescue God's Creation Lobby Training Weekend from March 19-23 in Washington, D.C. They met with Iowa legislators to discuss the issue of reforming the hard-rock mining law of 1872 to meet today's standards.

The more than 100-year-old law was passed to develop the Western states and gives miners land at a rate of \$2.50-\$5 an acre. There are no provisions in the law for environmental responsibility.

"We learned it takes a lot of effort to get anywhere," said Ver Steeg. "Nobody sees any economic gain from implementing environmental policy."

The mining problem in the West is exacerbated by the fact that many large foreign companies, including many from Canada, leave large areas of land polluted without compensating taxpayers, the senior said.

Schreurs, a sophomore, said that although it is illegal for Canadian companies to buy



Dordt College students Jennifer Meyers, Mick Vande Griend, Matthew Ver Steeg and John Schreurs met with Rep. Tom Latham (center) at the recent Rescue God's Creation Lobby Training Weekend in Washington, D.C.

the land, they often form smaller American companies. With the percentage depletion tax, the companies also are taxed less and less the more depleted the land becomes.

The biggest problem, however, is the environmental degradation, says Schreurs. Companies use cyanide to leach out the gold, sometimes in mines 800 feet deep and about a mile wide, sometimes bigger.

"One you can see from space," Schreurs said. "They'll level entire mountains for this."

Eighty percent of the gold mined is used for jewelry and only twenty percent is used for technology, he said.

"The amount of dirt and rock moved, it's just tons for just one gold ring," he said.

The bottoms of these pits become pools of cyanide, and Schreurs believes that the standards of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Natural Resources are not effective since they only require that the cyanide be evaporated into the air.

"You can't just plant trees and expect the ecosystem to grow back," Schreurs said.

After these mines are used up and it's no longer profitable for the companies to continue, they can declare bankruptcy and leave more than \$200 million in cleanup costs for taxpayers, they said.

Both Ver Steeg and Schreurs believe the issue should be important to everyone.

"Federal land belongs to all people," Schreurs said. "They extract gold and we get nothing."

Their main themes in lobbying for reform were preserving God's creation and concern for tax dollars. Ver Steeg, who plans to study law at Valparaiso University in Indiana this fall, met with U.S. Representative Tom Latham and an aide of Senator Tom Harkin, using a different approach with each.

"Senator Harkin is known as a very 'green' senator. He's very environmentally friendly," said Ver Steeg. Part of the group's approach was to encourage Harkin to take on the role of championing the hard-rock mining issue with the retirement of another U.S. senator who previously spearheaded reform. Although Harkin's aide was knowledgeable and supportive of the reform, he said Harkin was not receptive to the idea of becoming the new leader in changing the law, saying "those are big shoes to fill."

Ver Steeg said Latham, on the other hand,

knew little about the issue but was grateful for the information.

"We encouraged him to take a stand on environmental issues," Ver Steeg said. But the students were told that the hard-rock mining law was not an issue affecting Latham's constituents.

"He's a little more skeptical, being in the House, which is more urban-based," Ver Steeg said.

The students also felt that other environmental advocates tend to be uncompromising.

"The sponsors we saw this weekend were very hard line. A lot of the time they're going to butt heads if they are not willing to compromise," Ver Steeg said. "I think you have to use the system to get anywhere."

Schreurs has spent a great deal of time hunting and fishing with his father and concern for the environment always has been part of his life. After he graduates he hopes either to work with the environment or in a developing country.

Schreurs also shared in the visit with Latham. "I was impressed with the fact that he met with us personally," he said, "but at the same time I didn't feel like I was taken seriously as a constituent coming from an agriculturally-based community."

He felt that Latham agreed with reforming the law, but that his top priority is agriculture, and that Latham needs the support of western states where most of the mining is taking place.

Schreurs had a similar visit with an aide to Senator Chuck Grassley.

"We told him that we were Christian college students," Schreurs said. Normally college students don't vote enough, and we told them we were Christians because Christians are not usually involved in the environment.

Schreurs said that Grassley's aide was defensive of the senator's stand on the environment.

"We don't think he has a strong stand, but his aide begged to differ," he said.

The biggest problem Schreurs found with implementing environmental policy in Washington is special interest groups having too much control. He said he understands the dilemma, but that it basically comes down to morals.

"You can't get elected without financing, but you've got to do what's right."

Christina Brinks, a sophomore from Kalamazoo, Michigan, wrote this piece for her hometown paper after learning about the injustice of the Mining Law in an environmental studies course.

The 1872 Mining Law, sometimes referred to as the "last great American gold heist" is a law that has cheated the American people out of billions of dollars. This law allows mining companies to purchase the rights to mine on public lands and then extract the gold or other hard-rock minerals from these lands, and American taxpayers are losing billions of dollars in the process.

How does this happen?

Unchanged since its beginning in 1872, the Mining Law says that public land, which belongs to you and me, can be sold at \$2.50 or \$5 per acre to anyone who is willing to mine it. Created to encourage settlement of the West in the nineteenth century, this law now caters to huge mining corporations that acquire land at dirt-cheap prices, mine the wealth out of it and leave an environmental mess in their wake.

These mining companies are paying absolutely no royalties to the government for the gold and other hard-rock minerals they take and are eligible for more tax breaks the longer they own the land. The companies use highly dangerous methods of mining that were unheard of in the 1800s and are degrading to the environment. They are running away with billions of dollars worth of hard-rock minerals that belong to the American people, leaving the cleanup bill for someone else to pay. That someone else is the American people.

Why does this happen?

Because our congressmen have not yet put a stop to it. Since hard-rock mining takes place in the Western states, many of our Midwestern and Eastern lawmakers are under the impression that the 1872 Mining Law does not affect their constituents. Deferring to Western senators, some of whose campaign contributions come from large mining companies, our congressmen have as yet failed to bring about hard-rock mining law reform. In fact, a bill was recently passed in the Senate that delays much-needed regulations that would force mining companies to be more environmentally conscious in the way they operate. Furthermore, although we in Michigan are not directly affected by environmental problems that result from current mining methods, such as unsafe drinking water, we are responsible for providing the funds to fix these problems.

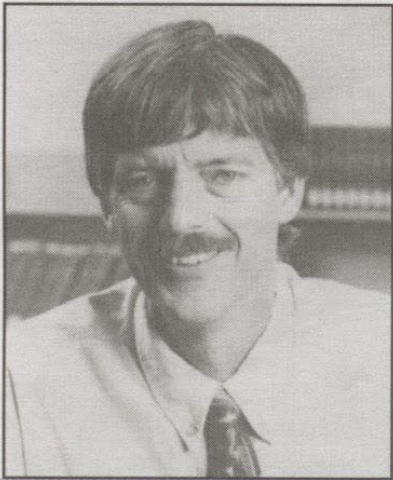
How can we stop this?

Contact your senators and representatives. Despite the fact that it is our land that is being debased and our money that is financing the cleanup, our congressmen will not make this issue a priority until we make it a priority. Our congressmen are going to be voting soon on a percentage depletion allowance bill that, if passed, is a step in the right direction of mining law reform. Called S-590 in the Senate and HR-397 in the House, this bill would prevent mining companies from getting tax breaks for the depreciation of the value of land which they acquired virtually for free.

Urge your congressmen to vote "Yes" on this bill. Tell them that you support hard-rock mining law reform, including requiring companies to put up bonds before they begin mining that would finance environmental cleanup should the company leave a mess and not be able to pay for it. Ask them to bring a stop to the giveaway of public lands to mining companies who care only for the wealth they can acquire from beneath them.

Three faculty members complete doctorates

Three faculty members—Sydney Hielema, Ronald Vos, and Benjamin Kornelis—recently completed their Ph.D.s.



Dr. Sydney Hielema

Theology professor **Sydney Hielema's** dissertation was a study of the relationship between the creation, Jesus Christ, and the new creation. Titled "Herman Bavinck's Eschatological Understanding of Redemption," the study looked at the big picture of redemption history, says Hielema.

He believes that the neo-Calvinist tradition's emphasis on the doctrine of creation and creational structures can result in an overemphasis that is a reaction to its neglect within broader Christendom.

"Bavinck doesn't have that overemphasis, and I'd like to recapture his more historical approach," says Hielema. For Hielema this emphasis overshadows Christ at times. It is also ahistorical.

While Hielema agrees that there are creational structures and considers himself a neo-Calvinist, he has come to believe that there is something missing in both the neo-Calvinist and pietist views.

"In Jesus, creation is placed in the context of the present and coming kingdom," he says. "Creation is not the focus in itself."

Hielema is concerned that neo-Calvinism is sometimes seen by those with less education to be a philosophical construct, something too polemical. He urges a third way. A more historical approach, he believes, opens doors and builds bridges.

"God's way with the world is gritty and messy and not always neatly structured," he says. Living the Christian life is seeking to be faithful in that mess. Being faithful in the midst of a messy world gives more hope than focusing primarily on redeeming creation, he believes.

Hielema earned his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto.



Dr. Ronald Vos

Ronald Vos says he wanted his research to enhance understanding of sustainable agriculture practices. In the end he not only did field and laboratory research but also looked at

some economic and political implications of his research.

For his dissertation, "The Effect of Annual Medics on Weed Control in Corn," Vos investigated whether planting certain species of medic, an annual, alfalfa-like plant, between rows of corn would control weeds and add nitrogen to the soil without inhibiting corn yield. He found that one of the species he tested gave some promising results.

Medics live only about ten to twelve weeks and are used widely in the Mediterranean and in Australia. The advantage of using such a plant is that its short life span allows it to cover the ground and keep out weeds during the growing season, but because it dies off relatively quickly it does not smother corn plants. It also puts nitrogen back into the soil. Vos also found some laboratory evidence to suggest that substances in the species of medic that he tested inhibited seed germination of both green foxtail and velvetleaf weeds.

Vos notes that interplanting a corn field with medic also increases the amount of carbon taken out of the air and put back into the soil. Burning fossil fuels has increased the amount of carbon in the air, leading to what has become known as the "greenhouse effect."

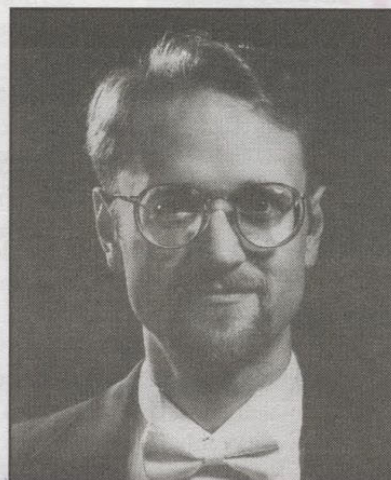
"Any time you increase the amount of plant matter growing, you take more carbon out of the air and help store it in the soil," he says. This counters the "greenhouse effect."

Vos's research was funded through a Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) grant for which he applied with his major professor at South Dakota State University.

"My goal was to advance the cause of sustainable agriculture," he says. "You do that by learning a lot of things that don't work so well and some things that do." Even though two of the medic species he tested did not seem as effective, the results will help someone else focus their research in another area.

At the conclusion of a year spent on leave at Michigan State University, choral director **Benjamin Kornelis** completed his Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA), a performance degree

which he earned in choral conducting. In lieu of a dissertation, Kornelis completed a document and a defense, as well as a one-hour



Dr. Benjamin Kornelis

conducting recital that included the musical work upon which his document was based. He also took a series of comprehensive exams in music theory and musicology.

Kornelis's written study, "Joseph Gabriel Rheinberger's *Cantus Missae*, Opus 109: An Eloquent Response to the Cecilian Movement in Nineteenth Century Germany," explored the roots, objectives, and effects of the Cecilian reform movement in Catholic music in nineteenth century Germany. He looked particularly at the choral compositions and stylistic characteristics of Rheinberger; and how his *Cantus Missae*, written at the height of attacks by the Cecilians, could represent a response on the composer's part to the reform group's charges.

Kornelis's doctoral recital choir was made up of thirty-two volunteer singers, mostly other graduate students in conducting, vocal performance, or music education. The performance included the performance of "Jesu, Joy and Treasure" by Dietrich Buxtehude, *Cantus Missae* by Rheinberger, "Americana" by Randall Thompson, and "La Villanella" arranged by Steven Sametz.

Kornelis will resume his work at Dordt College this fall.

Faculty News

Dr. John Struyk, **Prof. Corinne Huisman**, and **Dr. Dallas Apol** attended the annual conference of the North American Christian Foreign Language Association at Anderson (Indiana) University, held March 25-27. The meeting marked the end of Apol's three-year term as secretary of the organization.

Education professor **Pam Adams** was recently appointed to serve on the Christian Schools International (CSI) Board, attending her first meeting on March 12 and 13 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Adams also had an article accepted for publication in the fall issue of the *Iowa Reading Journal*. The title of the article is "Hurrah for Literacy and Librarians."

Dr. John Visser currently serves on an advisory council looking into setting up an MBA program in China. Visser also plans to teach at the Russian American Christian University in June.

Engineering professor **Dr. Charles Adams** gave the keynote address at the CSI District Six Educator's Spring Inservice Program on Friday, March 19, 1999, at Southwest Christian High School in Edgerton, Minnesota. His title was "Technology—Can We Use It All? Should We Use It All?"

"Post-Cold War Conflict Resolution: Opportunities and Challenges to Non-governmental Organizations," written by economics

professor **Dr. Jude Fernando**, was published in the Winter 1998 issue of *Peace Forum*, a journal of the Graduate Institute of Peace Studies at Kyung Hee University in Korea.

Dr. Lorna Van Gilst presented "Emily Dickinson Visits Mango Street" at the International Reading Association conference held in San Diego in May. In the presentation, she and a colleague from the Universidad de Los Andes of Venezuela discussed the value of using literature in teaching English as a foreign language.

Theater professor **John Hofland** attended a workshop called "Structural Design for the Stage" at the recent USITT conference in Toronto.

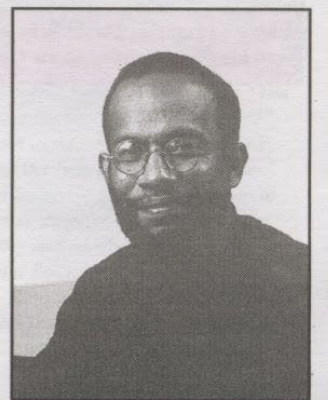
Dordt College psychology professor **Dr. Sherri Lantinga** was given the award of "outstanding poster presentation" at the Midwest Institute for Teaching of Psychology (MITOP) annual conference. Lantinga will also make her presentation at the National Conference of the American Psychological Association in Washington, D.C., in the summer of 2000.

Communication professor **Tim Vos** was recently re-elected to the Board of Directors of the Iowa Broadcast News Association. He serves as the college/university director on the board.

“God’s way with the world is gritty and messy, and not always neatly structured.”



Dr. Pam Adams



Dr. Jude Fernando

Naming God's creation

Plumblines are commentaries broadcast on Dordt's radio station, KDCR. We hope to stimulate thinking about issues we face as Christians living in 1999.

“
My ability to praise
God through his creation
is increased considerably
when I can name and
and am knowledgeable
about his creatures.”

Dave Schelhaas

There is a joy in my life. As I walk in my yard or across campus, I hear a bird sing and am able to say, chickadee, finch, oriole. Or I see a flash of gold and red and white slanting up from a green lawn and am able to say flicker. Or I look up at the tree I'm walking near and say pin oak, ash, blue spruce.

Now, to be sure, I am not very far along in this capacity to name God's creation, and when I walk with friends who know all the bird songs or all the wild flowers in a field I am very much aware of my ignorance. But still, my delight in God's creatures is increased considerably by my ability to name them. I would go a step further and say my ability to praise God through his creation is increased considerably when I can name and am knowledgeable about his creatures.

Now I suppose some folks might argue that they can appreciate creation and praise God through it just fine without knowing the names of the creatures. And to a point, that's true. My father, who planted flowers in his garden, used to laugh and say, "I don't know what they are called, but they're all pretty." True. Yet knowing what to call them and other information about them could make them even prettier. What would we think of a teacher who said, "I don't know my children's names, but they're all God's children, and I love them all." What would we think of a God who said, "I don't know your name, but you're one of my image bearers." Our delight in almost everything increases when we get to know it individually.

Yet, according to Allan Durning, the average teenager today is incapable of naming ten plants and animals in his own backyard. He can recognize a thousand corporate

logos but only a couple of God's creatures. I find that disturbing. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is there will your heart be also," and it makes me ask: what do our hearts treasure?

We believe that there are two ways to know God: through the divine revelation of scriptures and the natural revelation of creation. St. Paul says in Romans 1:20, "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." Did you get that? "being understood from what has been made"? But if we hardly glance at what God has made because we are too busy, how can we see the eternal power and divine nature of God? The Belgic Confession says that "the universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book in which all crea-

tures great and small are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God: his eternal power and his divinity."

But if we hardly see or do not bother to look, how can we use this creation as a vehicle for knowing and praising? In Eugene Peterson's rendition of Psalm 46, he writes: "Attention, all! See the marvels of God! He plants flowers and trees all over the earth. Step out of the traffic! Take a long loving look at me your High God, above politics, above everything."



He gets even more specific in Psalm 29: "God's thunder smashes cedars, God topples the northern cedars. The mountain ranges skip like little colts, the high ridges jump like wild kid goats. God's thunder sets the oak tree dancing, a wild dance, whirling; the pelting rain strips their branches. We fall to our knees—we call out, 'Glory!'"

In both of these passages and hundreds more in scripture, nature is said to manifest God, to sing out, shout out, to declare the presence of God. But people with their eyes glued to the TV or computer screen rarely see it, and they never fall to their knees and shout out "glory" to the Creator.

I am a teacher with thirty-four years of teaching behind me, and sometimes as I look back, I am amazed at what I choose to teach and choose not to teach. Why is it more important to identify states and capitals than trees and flowers and grasses and birds and insects? How is it that I attended school for fourteen years on the prairie and never learned the name of a single variety of prairie grass. It is easy

for me to blame the biology teachers, the natural scientists, and accuse them of inadequately displaying God's world to their students.

But then think of my own area, writing. Writers, I know, are namers. Good writers don't just name categories, they speak of individual species: cedars and palm trees and deer and mountain goats and the leviathan—to mention just a few that the biblical writers mention. Perhaps it is time I send my students into the field with the assignment of naming some of the creatures they live with here on the prairie. I am constantly amazed to find that for many of them a tree is just a tree, a bird a bird. How can they write with such a limited knowledge, much less praise their Father in Heaven. Maybe, in fact, this naming of things ought to be the first assignment of creative writing teachers. After all, our Creator God thought this naming of his creatures so important that it was the very first assignment he gave to Adam. I think I've just found a lesson plan.

The Dordt College Heritage Society: respond all loyal hearts to Dordt

Dave Vander Werf
Director of planned giving

By the time you read this, the Dordt College class of 1999 will have graduated and begun pursuing their post-college callings. Graduation is always the highlight of the year at Dordt. Parents, grandparents, alumni, and friends gather to reflect on and relive part of what makes Dordt College so special. I'm sure many alumni can still recall the sounds and words of the Dordt College alma mater ringing throughout the B.J. Haan Auditorium or, before that, the gymnasium. The experience is truly memorable.

The Dordt College Heritage Society is a group of people who are making sure these memories will endure and that others can take part in the Dordt experience for generations to come. Heritage Society members have left a legacy for Dordt College consistent with the stewardship they have practiced throughout their lives.

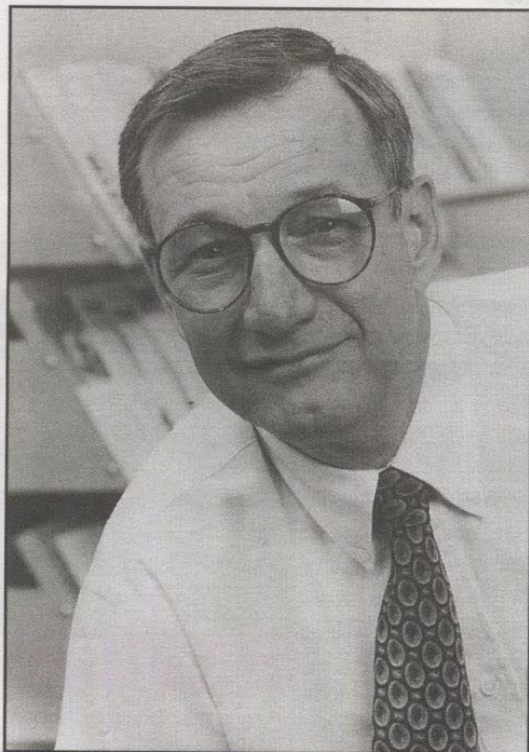
The Heritage Society is made up of

individuals who have made a planned gift to Dordt College. These gifts include remembering Dordt College in an estate plan, taking out a gift annuity with Dordt, setting up a charitable remainder trust with Dordt, or naming Dordt as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy.

National studies indicate that charities are aware of only about one-seventh of the charitable bequests they actually receive. This is true for Dordt College as well. You may already be a member of our Heritage Society and not even know it! So that we can recognize you as a member, simply send us a copy of the page of your will that lists Dordt as a beneficiary, and we will send you a small plaque which is given to all Heritage Society members. Join in the "camaraderie."

Our address is:

Dordt College
Advancement Office
498 4th Ave. NE
Sioux Center, IA 51250-1697
Attn. Dave Vander Werf



English Professor David Schelhaas enjoys both watching and writing about God's creation.

Dordt 2000 passes goal

Campaign is Dordt's biggest fund raising effort

Sally Jongsma

June 30, 1999, marks the official end of the Dordt 2000 Campaign, a \$16 million campaign begun five years ago which had as its centerpieces a recreation center and a new faculty office complex. Final figures are expected to exceed \$17.3 million. The fund raising effort, almost double that of any previous campaign in Dordt's history, was a success because of the generous giving of such a large number of loyal supporters, says Lyle Gritters, vice president for college advancement and coordinator of the program.

"I have to admit that I felt concern about whether we could jump from a \$9.5 million campaign to one of \$16 million," he says. "I would have felt more comfortable with \$12 to \$13 million. But a feasibility study done with a consulting firm convinced college officials that commitment to the college was strong enough to raise the needed funds to make the new buildings a reality. Dordt's growing alumni base, increasingly established alums, and good economic times contributed to a successful campaign."

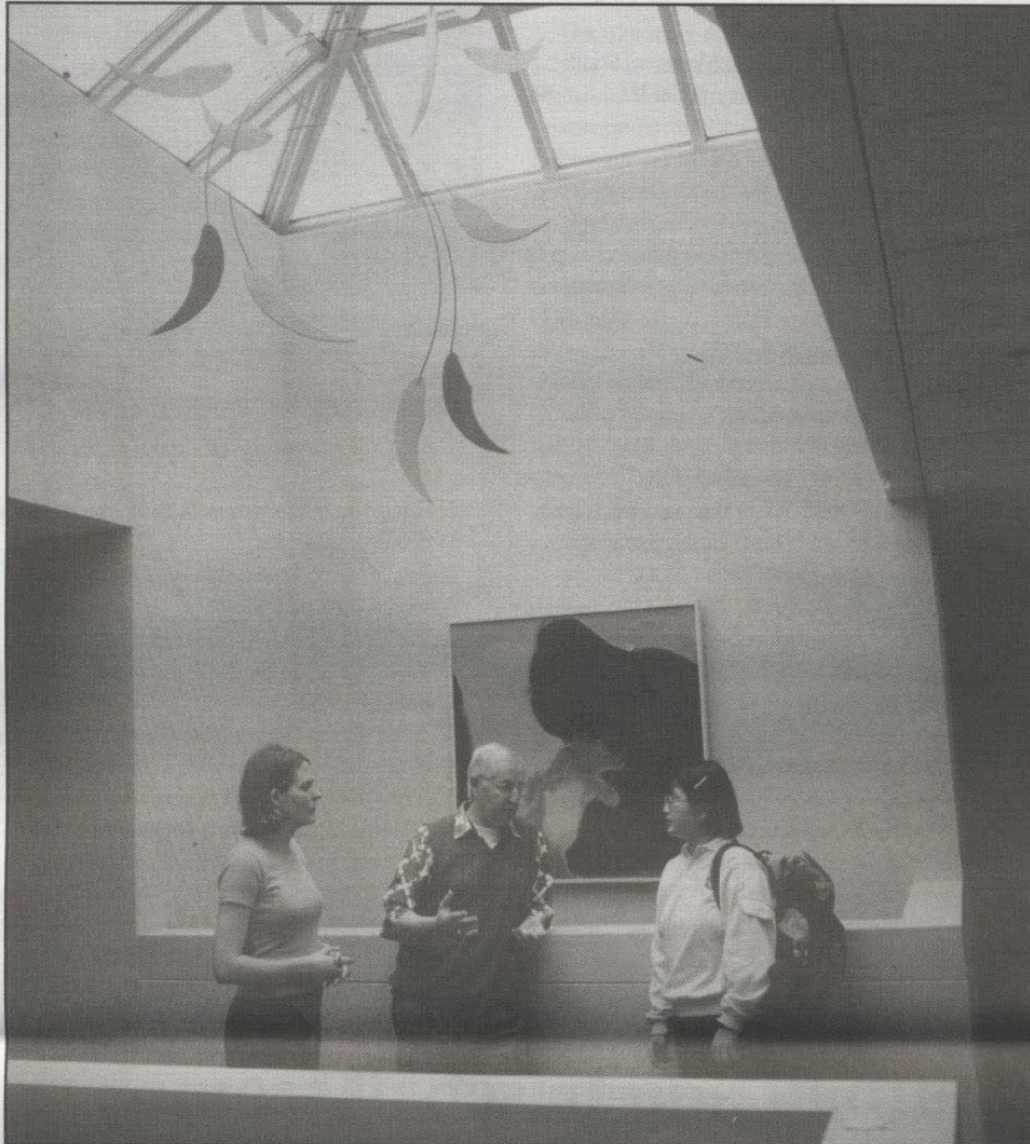
That's not to say that it was easy. In the breakdown of needed gifts outlined by the consultant, Dordt was short on gifts over \$250,000. But this shortage was compensated for by an overwhelming number of smaller gifts, says Gritters. Dordt received many in the \$10,000 to \$100,000 range and many, many more under \$5000. To Gritters this is indicative of the strong and loyal support Dordt enjoys from a broad range of people spread across the United States and Canada. It makes fund raising a bit harder, but also very satisfying.

"We get to talk with people, get to know many of them as friends who share a common commitment and vision," says Gritters. "Asking them for money isn't difficult because it is for something we all believe in, something that affects our churches, our schools, our families, and the kingdom generally."

Gritters sees his work as more than just raising money for buildings and programs. It is a ministry to challenge and encourage people in their giving.

"Many times people have told me about the joy and blessings they've experienced as a result of giving to important kingdom causes," he says. "Christ's kingdom beyond Dordt College also benefits."

But even more important than the money is the commitment, friendship, and prayer support that such fund raising visits bring to



the college.

During the campaign numerous visits were paid to individuals across the country by members of Dordt's development staff. More than eighty-five dinners were held in communities across the United States and Canada to tell people about Dordt College and its vision and how the new buildings would fit into that vision. More than 2500 people attended these dinners, many of them alumni who testified to the impact their Dordt education has had on their lives. The campaign generated many first-time pledges, mostly from younger alumni.

"People who invest both time and money into something, take greater interest and ownership in it," says Gritters. "They catch the excitement, see the need, and generate enthusiasm."

But the campaign did much more than put up new buildings. Only \$9.5 million went for the recreation center, the faculty office complex, and a maintenance building forced into a new location for the recreation center construction. \$4.5 million went to support ongoing programs of the college, providing additional resources for the college to enhance its academic offerings, keep up faculty salaries, and meet operational needs. Bernard De Wit, vice president for business affairs, cites two other areas, faculty development and increased financial aid for students, that were also affected by the campaign.

The third and equally important component of the campaign was for the endowment. The \$3.2 million added in endowed and deferred gifts will be very important for the future stability of the college.

"Dordt's endowment is still relatively low because we are a relatively young institution," says Gritters. As costs continue to rise, the endowment will serve both the college and its future students by moderating some of those increases.

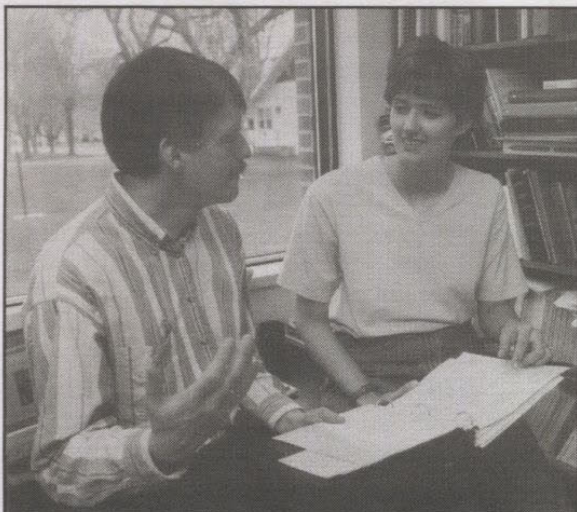
For president Carl Zylstra the campaign was a tremendous encouragement. "Joining the college as president mid-way through the campaign, I have been astounded to see the depth of commitment and breadth of support that has been exhibited to Dordt College. That such a young and relatively small college could garner a high level of support from so many people indicates the confidence people have in our college and the commitment they have to our mission of providing biblical Reformed higher education. The staff has done tremendous work. God's people have been so faithful. May God receive all the praise."

“

Dordt's growing alumni base, increasingly established alums, and good economic times contributed to a successful campaign.

”

The faculty office complex offers pleasant accommodations as professors do their work of teaching and advising. The recreation building center and maintenance building were also constructed with funds from Dordt 2000.



Corey Westra,
Sports Information Director

At Nationals

Men's 4x800 Meter Relay-
Jon Dekkers, Jim Dekkers,
Jeff Summerhays, and
Ron Kingma.

Men's 4x400 Meter Relay-
Troy Ten Napel, Jon
Dekkers, Steve Holwerda,
and Ron Kingma.

Women's Triple Jump-
Erica Ton.

Women's 4x400 Meter Relay-
Liz Dykstra, Cathy Palmer,
Lisa Cannegieter, and Sarah
Pluim.

Dordt College Track Records set in 1999:

1. Men's 400 Meter Dash-
Troy Ten Napel: 48.95
2. Men's 200 Meter Dash-
Troy Ten Napel: 22.41
3. Men's 800 Meter Dash-
Ron Kingma: 1:53.07
4. Women's Triple Jump-
Erica Ton: 37' 4" *(Qualified for Nationals)*
5. Women's Pole Vault-
Jill Starkenburg: 10'0" *(Indoor All-American)*
6. Women's 4x400 Meter
Relay- 4:01.75 (Liz Dykstra,
Cathy Palmer, Lisa
Cannegieter, and Sarah Pluim)
7. Women's 4x200 Meter
Relay- 1:48.80 (Juli Rouw,
Jackie Eekhoff, Erica Ton,
and Liz Dykstra)
8. Men's Sprint Medley Relay-
3:30.87 (Troy Ten Napel,
Steve Holwerda, Ron Kingma,
and Jeff Summerhays)

Defender teams fare well at SDIC track championships

It was a great day to be in Madison, South Dakota, on Saturday, May 10, at least for the Dordt College women's and men's track teams. Both teams capped off the season with second place finishes in the South Dakota-Iowa Conference Championships.

Dordt College made their best showing ever in the SDIC meet with the second place finishes, as the University of Sioux Falls won the women's and men's titles.

The Cougar women scored 127 points in winning the 17-event meet. Dordt's women were seven points behind with 120, with Black Hills State finishing third. The Sioux Falls' men tallied 133 points and Dordt 90 in the runner-up finish.

Dordt set four new Dordt College school records during the day at Trojan Field:

- Erica Ton (freshman from Dunnville, Ontario) leaped 37'4" in the women's triple jump to take the title and advance to the NAIA National Meet by making the qualifying standard. This set a new SDIC record.

- Troy Ten Napel (junior from Sioux Center, Iowa) broke two school marks in Madison. Ten Napel ran the 200 meter in 22.41 seconds and the 400 meter in 48.95. He finished third in each of the events.

- Ron Kingma (sophomore from De Motte, Indiana) set a new school record in the 800 meter run with a time of 1:53.07. This also set a new SDIC record.



Cathy Palmer (senior, Long Pine, Neb.) makes a hand-off to Lisa Cannegieter (sophomore, Dike, Iowa) in the 4x400 meter relay. The relay qualified for the NAIA National Meet.

Dordt College won seven events on the day at the SDIC Championships:

1. Erica Ton in the women's triple jump with a distance of 37'4".
2. Ron Kingma in the men's 800 meter run with a time of 1:53.07.
3. Jon Vander Kooy (junior from Mt. Vernon, Washington) in the 5000 meter run with a time of 15:52.
4. Sarah Pluim (senior from Orange City, Iowa) in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:16.82.
5. The women's 4x800 meter relay team (Tabitha Vander Wilt, a sophomore from Hospers, Iowa; Emily Kauk, a freshman from Saronville, Nebraska; Angie Nibbelink, a freshman from Sioux Center, Iowa; and Lisa Cannegieter, a sophomore from Dike, Iowa) with a time of 9:54.07.
6. The women's 4x400 meter relay team

(Pluim, Cannegieter, Liz Dykstra, a freshman from Grandville, Michigan; and Catherine Palmer a senior from Long Pine, Nebraska) with a time of 4:05.69.

7. The men's 4x400 meter relay team (Ten Napel, Kingma, Jon Dekkers, a freshman from Hawarden, Iowa; and Steve Holwerda a senior from Lansing, Illinois) with a time of 3:18.40.

1999 was definitely a turn-around as Dordt's women finished sixth in the SDIC last year and more than tripled their 1998 point total of 38. The Defender men have never finished higher than sixth in the conference and jumped all the way to number two this year. Dordt's women scored points in every one of the seventeen events in this year's conference meet. No other school accomplished this feat.

Softball and baseball teams complete spring diamond action

Dordt's softball team recently completed a successful 1999 campaign with a 17-14 record, and a tie for the South Dakota-Iowa Independent Conference championship with a 12-4 mark. The Lady Defenders, however, did not qualify for the post-season in a tie-breaker procedure.

"We were really young this year," commented Dordt softball coach Dr. Don Draayer. "Basically seven freshmen saw significant action this season."

Fielding was a strong point for this year's Lady Defenders who had a school record .955 fielding percentage. Tough early season injuries took their toll on the team as they struggled to find the right rotations. This year's Lady Defenders were tough at home with a 7-3 record in Sioux Center.

Seniors Wendy (Beimers) Poppema (Sioux Center, Iowa) and Faith Baas (Milaca, Minnesota) capped fine collegiate careers by being named first team all-conference. Poppema was named the SDIC co-pitcher of the year with her 5-3 conference mark. Dordt freshmen A.J. Poppema (Hospers, Iowa), Michelle Gruppen (Zeeland, Michigan), and Kim Brunsting (Boyden, Iowa) were named second-team all-conference this season.

The Defender baseball team ended the 1999 season with an 8-25 record, and went 6-12 in the South Dakota-Iowa Conference. However, the men did not get a chance to play in the post season tournament which was canceled because of wet weather.

Dordt picked up some nice wins during the season by defeating perennial baseball powers Briar Cliff and the University of South Dakota. "Picking up wins over Briar Cliff

and USD boosted the confidence of the team," said baseball coach Dr. Tom Visker. "A four-game sweep of Dakota State to end the season was also a highlight for the year."

Freshman Beau Bosma (Hospers, Iowa) was named first-team all-SDIC. Bosma carded a .311 batting average this spring, with a team high 30 singles. Juniors Craig Broek (Ireton, Iowa), Tim Roose (Pella, Iowa), and Mike Bruxvoort (Moline, Michigan) were named second-team all SDIC selections.

Dordt tennis players compete at Regionals

The Dordt College tennis season came to an end at the Great Plains Regional Meet in Minot, North Dakota, on May 8. Dordt College sent three men's players to compete in singles and doubles competition. Mark Van Klompenburg (sophomore from Pella, Iowa), Jeremy Van Beek (junior from Sanborn, Iowa), and Pete Gesch (sophomore from Cedar Grove, Wisconsin) all played in singles competition, with Van Klompenburg and Gesch pairing up in doubles action.

Both Gesch and Van Beek advanced to the second-round in the singles competition with wins, but were then defeated. The doubles team of Van Klompenburg and Gesch advanced to the quarter-finals before bowing out of the tournament.

1999 was a rebuilding season for the men's and women's tennis teams. The women finished 0-7 and the men were 0-11.

Dordt's Van Donge garners Wollman Award

Dordt College senior Janna Van Donge has been named the female recipient of the John Wollman Senior Scholar/Athlete of the Year Award in the South Dakota-Iowa Athletic Conference.



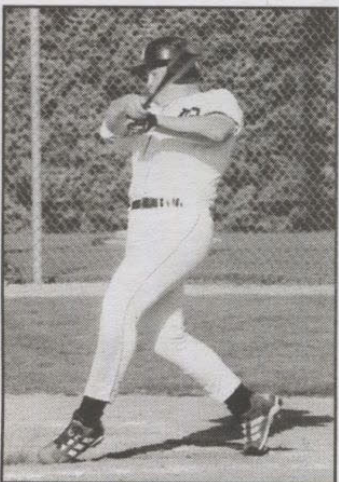
The award honors one male and one female athlete nominated by member schools in the SDIC. Nominees must have a minimum 3.5 grade-point average, be a senior academically, be a varsity participant, and demonstrate involvement and leadership skills.

Van Donge, a mathematics major and standout volleyball player, has been an NAIA Scholar All-American the past two seasons.

A four-time all-league selection in volleyball, Van Donge was named the most valuable player in the SDIC this past season. Van Donge helped lead Dordt to four SDIC volleyball titles and two NAIA National Tournament appearances in her college career. The 1998 Dordt College volleyball team went 46-5 and reached the Elite Eight of the NAIA National Tournament. For additional updates on Dordt College sports check out our web site at "www.kdcr.dordt.edu" on the Internet.



Dordt senior Wendy Poppema (Sioux Center, Iowa) makes the throw to first for an out. Poppema was named SDIC Co-Pitcher-of-the-Year.



Defender first baseman Craig Broek (junior, Ireton, Iowa) was second-team South Dakota-Iowa baseball pick this spring.

Alumni Notes

From the director . . .



Judy Hagey

Following Commencement 1999 the alumni association adds another 300 members and continues to expand its sphere of influence as graduates go out to work and serve around the world. As the alumni ranks swell and scatter,

our task of helping alumni maintain ties with each other and the college becomes more challenging. We are planning to initiate or carry out several new programs in the next several months that are intended to meet a range of alumni interests.

Free lodging for alumni

Do your summer travel plans include a trip to, through, or near Sioux Center? If so, you may be interested in a new offering from the alumni office—one night's free lodging for you and your family! Contact the alumni office at least forty-eight hours in advance, and we'll make arrangements for a room in Covenant Hall and a campus tour. Hope to see you on campus this summer.

SALT

Dordt's first service and learning trip (thus, SALT) is scheduled to take place on the campus of Rehoboth Christian School later this summer. Rehoboth instructors will teach morning courses on the people, culture, and geology of the Southwest, and on Navajo art. Afternoon activities will include trips to local sites of interest and work projects at Rehoboth or alongside Native American families. We're excited about the opportunities to learn about a community that shares our commitment to bring the claims of the Gospel to the surrounding culture and renew our own commitment to that challenge in the company of Dordt friends.



Dordt's alumni board met in April. Front row (L to R): Judy Hagey, Yvonne (De Vries) Bentz ('76); Betty (Addink) Moss ('86); Nancy (Verhoeven) Koetsler ('89); Sheila (Koldenhoven) Lammers ('85); Peggy (Marcus) Boxum ('88); Back row: Dayton Vogel ('81); Clayton Danzeisen ('76); Dave Bloemendaal ('68); Henry Contant ('77); Dave Van Essen ('95); Chuck Adams ('90).

Tour Europe

An international learning experience is on tap for July 2000. Proving that retirement doesn't mean reclusion, Arnold Koekkoek and his wife, Carol, will serve as escorts for a fifteen-day tour through the "Heart of Europe"—Holland, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, and France. Professor Koekkoek eagerly anticipates making European history come alive for former students and assures you there will be no test other than an endurance test for covering so much territory in two short weeks.

Revamping the board

Plans are underway to expand the current thirteen-member alumni board to a larger network of alumni volunteers with representatives or contact people in the areas around the country where there are significant numbers of Dordt alumni. If you should be asked to serve we hope you'll respond with an enthusiastic, "Yes!" Dordt continues to be recognized within Christian higher

education and among the general populace as an institution that equips students effectively for their vocations and service in the kingdom of Jesus Christ. That recognition is due, in no small part, to the influence alumni have in their churches, workplaces, and communities. It's our hope that as our alumni ranks grow, so too will the influence of a perspective that honors God as Lord and brings his claims into every area of life.

Call for nominations for Distinguished Alumni

The Distinguished Alumnus designation is an annual award given by the college to an alumnus/a who exemplifies the principles of the college in career or other areas of life, and who has gained insights and experience that can be shared for the benefit of the college community. If you know someone who qualifies for this recognition, submit their name to the alumni office along with a statement about why they should be considered.

A parting word from the president

Dave Bloemendaal

The school year has just ended. The fiscal year is nearly over. My term on the alumni association council is concluded. The century is drawing to a close. It seems the culmination of any event almost demands a retrospective glance over the shoulder to verify or even justify what has taken place. As an alumnus I am always amazed at the changes that have taken place at Dordt—not only physical changes to the campus, but more importantly the spiritual growth of young people influenced by professors, teachers, and campus staff who are deeply and truly dedicated to providing Christ-centered education.

As we look back on the dream of a Christian college sprouting out of the cornfields of the Midwest and scan the past forty-four years, we should stand amazed at the number of students who have been influenced by our college and its people. Even greater, however, is the number of people who have been influenced in some way by our alumni. With over 10,000 alumni across North America and over 100 more abroad, Dordt's influence is spread throughout the world. Think of it—an army of

soldiers prepared for all types of occupations, going out and influencing others, making a difference.

We cannot look back too long, however, or we will lose sight of our goals for the future. As the battalion of Dordt alumni increases it becomes more important to maintain contact. It is through alumni that many students or their parents get a first glimpse of what a Christian college can offer. It is because of alumni participation in fund raising drives that expansion can be completed. And our alumni are also instrumental in helping new graduates find employment. But none of these things happen without maintaining contact, without you contacting Dordt or the alumni office and telling them about a prospective student, or a job opening at your place of employment. Better still, get on campus. Volunteer to bring a new prospect for a campus visit. Come to interview someone for a job opening. Bring your children to see what happens on a college campus.

But come during the school year to see and feel for yourself the Christian atmosphere that you remember from your college days. Influence some one else. Make a difference—for Christ's sake.

Upcoming events

July 23-24

Reunion Weekend

a full weekend of relaxing and reminiscing for the classes of 1967-71, 1974, and 1989

August 7-14

SALT

Service And Learning Trip to Rehoboth, New Mexico

September 11

An Evening with James C. Schaap at the James J. Hill House, St. Paul, Minn.

Family Album: Free to Serve

The story of the roots and history of the Christian Reformed Church as written by James C. Schaap and told in drama, music, and video by Dordt faculty, staff, and alumni.

June 11, 7:30 p.m.,

Kentwood Fine Arts Auditorium, Grand Rapids, Mich.

June 13, 8:00 p.m.,

The Sanderson Centre, Brantford, Ont.

November 5

Abbotsford, B.C.

November 6

Lynden, Wash.

November 7

Denver, Colo.

Time and locations to be announced.

Fall 1999

Locations in central and southern California; watch for details.

There is still time to register for Dordt's first
SERVICE AND LEARNING TRIP

(S.A.L.T)

at

**Rehoboth
Christian School**

August 7-14, 1999



- Classes taught by Rehoboth Christian School staff
- Worship at reservation churches
- Participate in local work projects
- Observe festivities at 78th Inter-tribal Indian Ceremonial
- Shop at annual Indian Craft and Art Market held at Rehoboth

Cost: \$350/person (does not include travel to Rehoboth).

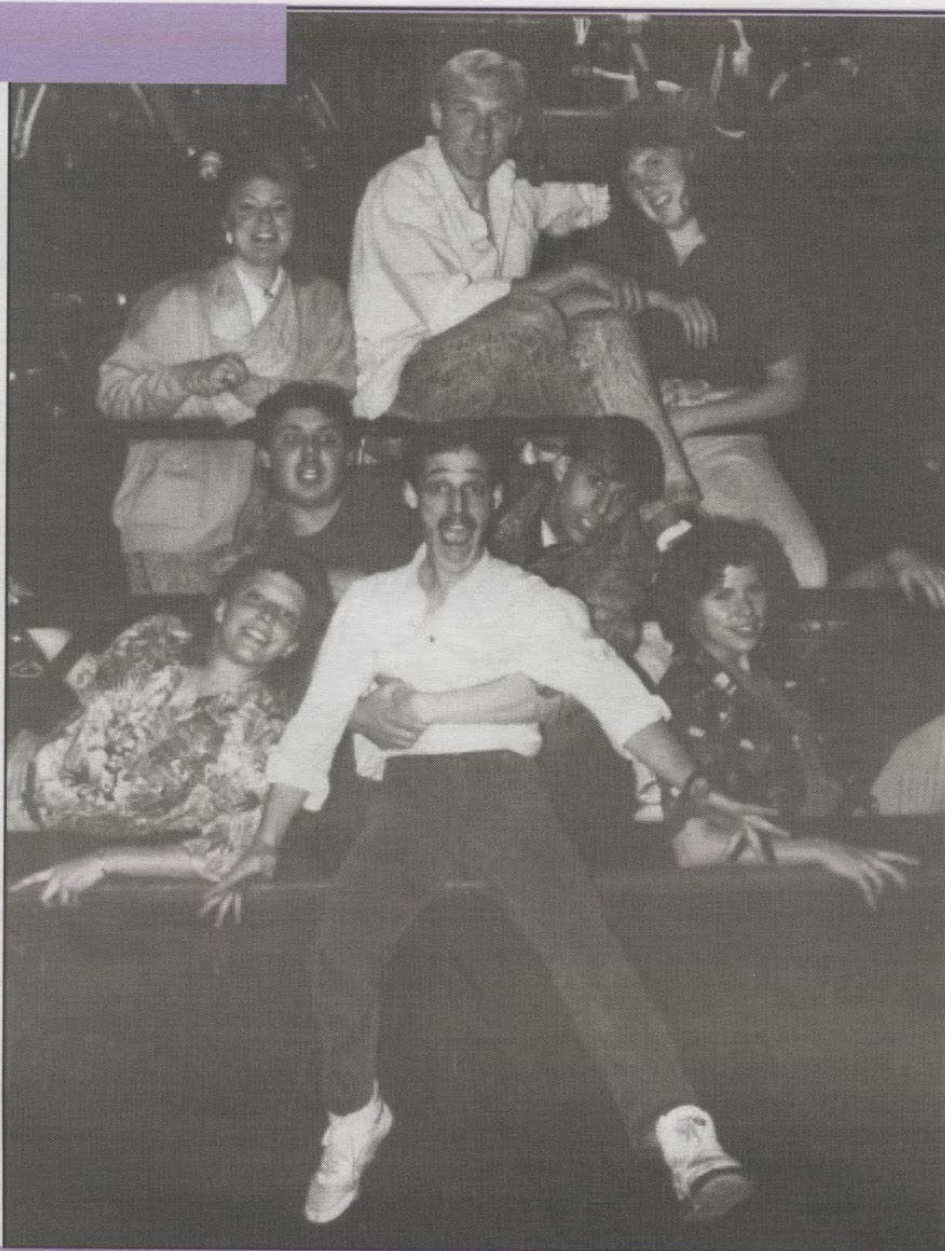
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The 1988 Repertory Theatre troupe: (front, left to right) Sue De Haan, Robert Wassenaar, Don Huizenga, Tim Maat, Karen (Bruxvoort) Huizenga; (back, left to right) Joy Kadyk, Eric Rynders, Kathy Powell.

Alumni notes

Ralph and Liz (Esselink, '77) Witten live in Red Deer, Alberta, where Ralph is the regional bridge engineer for central Alberta. They have four children: Laura, 14; Karen, 13; Kevin, 9; and David, 5 months. Liz keeps busy with home schooling their three oldest children.

Dr. Craig Stockmeier ('77) gave the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention 1999 Research Lecture on research he conducted that was funded by a grant from the AFSP. Stockmeier has recently been appointed to the AFSP Medical Research Council, for which he

reviews grant applications. Hillary Clinton received the 1999 Humanitarian Award at the AFSP dinner the next day.

Peter Noteboom ('84) is involved with the Toronto-based organization Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ) and their Jubilee 2000 debt forgiveness campaign, an initiative to forgive the

debts of various Third World countries in the year 2000. As part of this campaign, he has been involved in such international activities as heading workshops, attending a conference in Rome, and chairing caucus sessions for North American and Pacific campaigns.

Michael Dykstra ('85) is living in Medicine Hat, Alberta, where he is the city coordinator. He also spends time with the local immigration society as a tutor and ESL instructor. During the summer, he plays tennis in an attempt to turn back the clock by playing players who are at least five years younger than he. His wife, Irene, has chosen to stay home with their one-year-old daughter, Abra, but manages to keep active with friends and church activities.

Beth (Eiten, '86) Miller works part-time as an assistant manager at Comerica Bank. She and her husband, Gregory, live with their family in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where Gregory is a third grade teacher at Seymour Christian School.

Andrew and Janet (Bandstra) Noteboom ('86, '88) live in Chatsworth, Ontario, with their five children: Emily, 8; Jodi, 6; Caleb, 4; Beth, 2; and Naomi, three months. Andrew runs his own carpentry business, and Janet is a busy mom and homemaker.

Michael and Lana (Bosma, '87) Todd live in Columbus Junction, Iowa, with their four children. They own and operate the Louisa and Mediapolis Veterinary Clinics. They recently employed **Tim De Waard ('95)** at both clinics for an Iowa State University veterinary preceptorship. They also hired **Dr. Travis Vande Berg ('94)**, who graduated from Iowa State's school of veterinary medicine in 1998.

Mark and Connie (Weeda) Branderhorst ('87, '87) live in Visalia, California, with their three children: Caitlyn, 7; Connor, 4; and Courtney, 2 months. Mark teaches sixth grade at Central Valley Christian School, and Connie teaches Spanish part-time at Central Valley Christian High School.

Keith Fynaardt ('89) is in his fourth year as professor of English at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa. His wife, **Tamara (Mulder, '90)**, is also employed at Northwestern where she has been in public relations for three years. The Fynaardt's have a two-month-old son, Kit.

Alum to present diabetes

from a Calvin College press release

Dr. Larry Louters ('71), a chemistry professor at Calvin College, has always had a professional and personal interest in exercise physiology. A former college basketball player, Louters remains an active athlete. And, despite a full teaching schedule, Louters also is an active researcher.

Last summer he brought together his professional and personal interests as he researched the "exercise-like" effect of a new type 2 diabetes drug called Rezulin. Type 2 is the most common type of diabetes and affects about 15 million Americans. Nine out of ten cases of diabetes are type 2. It usually occurs in people over forty-five years of age.

"In this disease," says Louters, "patients may still produce insulin, but their tissues no longer respond well to the hormone. Insulin promotes glucose uptake from the blood into cells and so if cells don't respond to insulin the result is elevated blood glucose levels and the classic symptoms of diabetes. Rezulin is an effective treatment because it makes the tissues more sensitive or responsive to insulin."

In June Louters will travel to San Diego for the 59th Annual Scientific Meetings and Sessions of the American Diabetes Association

(www.diabetes.org/). He will be part of a poster session in which he will present the result of his research—called "Effect of Troglitazone on Exercise and Insulin Stimulated Glucose Uptake." (Troglitazone is the chemical name for Rezulin). His work also will be published in a supplement to the May 1999 issue of *Diabetes*.

This summer he also will continue his research on Rezulin. And he plans to do research on the use of herbs and dietary supplements—specifically gymsema and chromium picolinate—to treat type 2 diabetes.

Louters received no money from the company which makes Rezulin to do his research. He simply decided that the way the drug works was interesting and he called the manufacturer asking if they'd send him some Rezulin for study. They sent him enough for research both last summer and this. Louters says the work last summer yielded some interesting results.

"First of all, despite some of the controversy surrounding Rezulin," says Louters, "there is no doubt that it is an effective drug to treat type 2 diabetes. It acts as an insulin sensitizer; it allows the body to make much better use of insulin that already is in the body. In that way it acts the way exercise does. And that was of interest to me as an exercise physiologist."

CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPING

We at Dordt College are interested in hearing how you are doing and what kinds of events are happening in your life. Please fill out the coupon below and mail to: Alumni Association, Dordt College, 498 4th Ave. NE, Sioux Center, Iowa 51250

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Lisa Kollis-Young ('91) completed graduate
school at the Pacific University College of
Optometry in 1995 and is currently practicing in
Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Julie Bergsma ('94) recently completed work
on a desegregation case in the St. Louis public
schools under the jurisdiction of the U.S.
District Court.

Krystyn (Kooima, ex'94) Boonstra is currently
employed as a CPA/Accounting Supervisor with
Pearson Education, Inc. in Upper Saddle River,
New Jersey. Her husband, Gregg, works at
Kuiken Bros. Lumber in Emerson, New Jersey.

Marriages

Jason Young and **Lisa Kollis** ('91), 6/13/98
Mark Rip ('97) and **Annette Groen** ('99), 1/2/99
Leanne Meadows ('92) and Gary Cerotti, 4/11/98
Dan Addink ('98) and **Jessica Vanderwerff** ('98)
7/31/98

In Memory

Hendrick (Henk) Wildeboer ('93) was involved
in an accident and then passed away on December
6, 1998, after three weeks in a coma. He is sur-
vived by his wife Juanita (Kootsier, '93) and their
expected baby.

Future Defenders

Ralph and **Liz (Esselink, '77)** Witten, David James, 12/31/98
Kent Mc Neil and **Dawn Kooistra** ('80), Katelyn Margaret, 12/8/98
Steven and **Dixie (Richards, '80)** Dresner, Lily Diana, 10/22/98
Tim and **Kathy (Hoogerhyde, '82)** Kline, Alyssa Marie, 2/25/99
Kent and Cindy Marra ('82), Chase Michael, 2/26/99
Kevin and **Dixie (Mulder, ex'82)** Wielenga, Klayton Andrew, 3/18/99
Kendall and **Teri (Andringa, '84)** Howland, Trisha Verlene, 10/26/98
Kevin and **Désirée (Uittenbosch, '84)** Francisco, Lauryn Elyse, 3/24/99
Michael and Irene Dykstra ('85), Abra Genevieve, 11/4/97
Gregory and **Beth (Eiten, '86)** Miller, Cassidy Jon, 2/15/99
Erick and Sue (Werkhoven) Alberts ('86, '87), Calvin Samuel, 3/20/99
Ken and Vonda (Isakson) Minderhoud ('86, '87) Matthew Tyler, 4/27/99
Jim and **Lisa (Ruisch, '87)** Kuiper, Daniel Jay, 3/2/99
Andrew and Janet (Bandstra) Dreise ('86, '88), Naomi Anne, 2/16/99
Michael and Lana (Bosma, '87) Todd, Sarah Rae, 6/2/98
Mark and Connie (Weeda) Branderhorst ('87, '87), Courtney Morgan, 3/3/99
Karl and Shirley (Noteboom) Kaemingk ('87, '87), Nicole Lynn, 2/11/99
Bruce and Elaine (Prins) Wind ('87, '88), Sophia Elaine, 10/7/98
Randy and **Carol (Westendorp, '88)** Struyk, Joel Henry, 2/28/99
Chad and Jannalyn (Braaksma) Zevenbergen ('88, '89), Derek Jacob (1/25/99)
and De Lyne Marie (1/26/99)
Jay and Carla Hoffland ('89), Alyssa Danielle, 4/10/99
Rick and **Diana (Springer, '89)** Ashbaugh, Macala Lacey, 1/1/99
Daniel and Shelley Van Dyke ('89), Jared Edward, 3/19/99
Edgar and Elaine Veldman ('89), Evan Joel, 3/1/99
Keith and Tamara (Mulder) Fynaardt ('89, '90), Kitrick Leo, 3/24/99
Darrin and Dianne (Dykstra) Hoekstra ('89, ex'92), Ethan Benjamin, 10/23/98
Tim and Debbie (Blik) Vant Hul ('90, '90), Lucas Alan, 2/24/99
J. Blan and **Peggy (Hoogland, '91)** Taylor, J. Blan IV, 10/23/98
Jack and **Michele (Vander Wees, '91)** Tamming, Lauren Corrina, 3/9/99
Jim and **Reneé (Miedema, '92)** Eckberg, Joseph Lawrence, 9/22/98
Paul and Kim (Vandermeulen) Dalen ('92, '94) Abigail Jane, 1/25/99
Bao and **My Uyen (Cao, '93)** Tran, Anthony Nam, 12/24/98
Dennis and Julie (Hendricks) Vander Velden ('93, '93), Erik James, 4/13/99
Michael and Natalie (Vander Meulen) Mulder ('94, '93), Abigail Joy, 1/26/99
Gregg and **Krystyn (Kooima, ex'94)** Boonstra, Benjamin Gregg, 7/22/98
Cory and **Loretta (Rasmussen, '94)** Jorgensen, Kylie Rae, 3/31/99
Matt and Teri (Vanden Berg) Bos ('95, '95), Jordan Leigh, 3/28/99
Garry and Jennifer (Buys) Eriks ('95, '95), Alison Ruth, 2/14/99
Travis and Amy (Rozeboom) Hanenburg ('95, '95), Alexis Joy, 4/6/99
James and **Neisha (Vos, '95)** Horn, Elizabeth Mae, 4/19/99
Thomas J. and Melissa D. (Vander Lugt) Kamp ('96, '96), Zachary Thomas, 4/23/99
Marc and Shelby (Nunnikhoven) Andreas (ex'96, ex'96), Connor David, 3/25/99
Cory and **Arla Van Sloten** ('95), Dryce Jordan, 3/13/99
Keith and Tricia (Feyer) Hendricks ('97, '97), Kristina Kay, 2/25/99
Brent and Tania (Roosendaal) Molendyk (ex'98, '91), Kara Michelle, 11/16/98
Steve and Angie Bonnema ('98), Isaac James, 2/9/99

research

Specifically I wanted to look at the effects of
Rezulin on the body both immediately following
exercise and in the post-exercise period—when
the body remains more sensitive to insulin."

What Louters found was that Rezulin works
somewhat differently on different muscle types.
Its impact appears to be greater on fast twitch
muscles than slow twitch. He also found that
Rezulin does not enhance the body's sensitivity
to exercise more than just the exercise itself
would. This is significant because one of the
things Louters was interested in was whether a
combination of Rezulin and exercise would in
fact make the body too sensitive to insulin and
thus cause blood sugar levels to drop too low,
too quickly.

"There doesn't appear to be a problem with
combining exercise and Rezulin," Louters said,
"which is significant because doctors always
recommend that (type 2) diabetics follow an
exercise program. But many type 2 diabetics
also are helped by Rezulin. This research pro-
vides some answers about the combination of
the two."

Louters says that while Rezulin works, the
question of how it works remains unanswered.
This summer he hopes to further examine the
mechanism in the body that allows Rezulin to
work.

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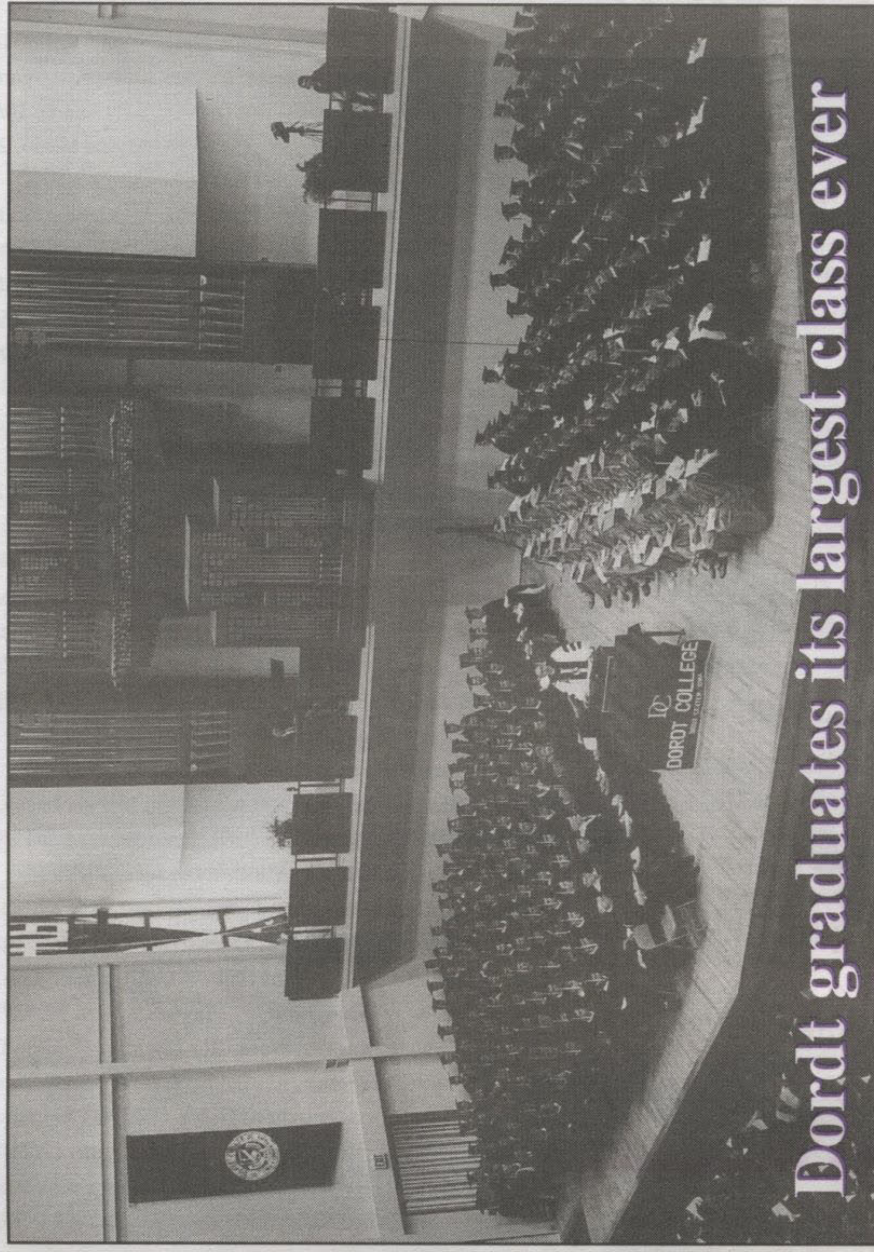
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